

y-Friday, August 22-23, 1996  
Arab prince to walk in Cairo  
Huge credit bill shocks official  
Men gets life cookie that Florida  
Talks rges meets today  
French Spies arrested in  
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### German justice may probe Iran's leaders

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AFP) — German prosecutors were Friday considering whether to investigate Iran's leaders for the killings of Kurdish opposition figures after a former president charged the attacks had been ordered from the top. Information provided by Iran's former President Abolhassan Bani Sadr was "very precise," said a spokesman for the German public prosecutor's department here Rolf Hannich. Mr. Bani Sadr, giving evidence for the second day Friday, told a Berlin court that according to new information he had received Thursday by fax Iran's spiritual leader Ali Khamenei had ordered the 1992 assassinations in writing (see story on page 2). A senior member of the Iranian secret services, currently in hiding, was prepared to testify to the court about the killings when four members of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan were gunned down in a Berlin restaurant, he added.



**Jordan Times**

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

### Syrian movements in Lebanon 'routine'

BEIRUT (AFP) — Syrian troops have been on the move in Lebanon over the past 48 hours, security services said, but a high-level Lebanese official described the operation as a routine redeployment. The Lebanese official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the press "these movements are not unusual." He added that "Lebanese authorities had been informed of the redeployment operation." Syria keeps some 35,000 troops in Lebanon. Witnesses said tanks and personnel carriers had entered Lebanon at dawn Friday from the border post of Masnaa, 90 kilometres east of Beirut. The Syrian military has dismantled two barricades that it kept for several years on the road from Beirut to the Syrian border and has handed them over to the Lebanese authorities, the same sources said.

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# King opens channel for dialogue after crisis

## HM's 'candid' speech to parliamentarians seen to have ensured democracy survived in Jordan

### Calm prevails throughout Jordan with two peaceful demonstrations

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a clear sign that the worst is over in the crisis that erupted over the increase in bread prices, Friday passed without any disturbances in all parts of the Kingdom except for two minor peaceful demonstrations in Salt and the southern city of Karak which was rocked by two days of riots last week. This state of calm (which was interrupted by noises from tens of wedding processions) was seen by officials and citizens as a strong sign that the crisis is over because Friday was viewed as decisive day for the disturbances to either end or flare-up again. In another indication that normalcy is returning to the country, Karak residents said that army units, which were deployed in the city after the riots, withdrew from the streets last evening and an official source revealed that the curfew which was imposed

on this hilltop ancient city of 25,000 inhabitants on Aug. 18 would be lifted today, Saturday. "We believe that people's awareness, specially after His Majesty King Hussein's candid description of the situation (in the speech he made to deputies Thursday) (see separate story), the adequate measures taken by the concerned authorities and the responsible position by the mainstream opposition to preempt any sabotage have contributed to maintaining peace and order," Ghadeer Taher, press advisor to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, said. However, security forces took no chances and were on a state of alert as they maintained vigil in major cities in the Kingdom. In Salt, about 300 people staged a peaceful demonstration to protest the increase in the price of bread. Demonstrators, almost all youngsters, shouted slogans demanding the reversal of the decision to raise

bread prices before the protest ended in little over an hour. Eyewitnesses said the demonstrators also shouted slogans against the Kabariti government. Some also shouted pro-Iraqi slogans, they said. Security forces arrested 25-year-old Kamal Gammo who, according to his brother, is a member of the leftist Democratic Unionist Party which is headed by Issa Mdanat and represented in the government by Deputy Mustafa Shneikat and in the Lower House by Dr. Shneikat and Bassam Haddadin. Eyewitnesses said Mr. Gammo urged youngsters who were present at the town centre after the Friday prayers to protest against the increase in the prices of bread. But they said Mr. Gammo stressed that the demonstration should be peaceful and that there should be no violence or attacks on properties.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein's speech to members of Parliament on Thursday has opened the channels for dialogue to end the problems created by last week's disturbances and to ensure that the Kingdom's democracy has survived the crisis, political analysts said Friday. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) party, Jordan's main opposition group, welcomed the King's address to the deputies and said the party fully supported the monarch's calls for consolidating national unity and adopting a firm stand against those who work against national interests. "The King has opened the way to a new political dialogue on all issues that face us," said Ibrahim Izzeddine, a former cabinet minister. The King's speech was "very frank and candid and had a very positive effect on everyone," Mr. Izzeddine told the Jordan Times Friday.



His Majesty King Hussein on Thursday meets with members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament (photo by Yousef Allam)

The King reaffirmed his commitment to democracy, public freedoms and fighting corruption and abuses of power. The King's meeting with the parliamentarians, attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh and other officials, was the latest in efforts to contain the crisis sparked by the riots and pave the way for new avenues of talks among all sectors of the society. "The recent events allowed our enemies to gloat and allowed them to get at what they wanted," King Hussein said. "What happened had a negative impact on years of what we tried to build, to tell the world that Jordan is an oasis of stability," he said. The King said the decision to increase bread prices was necessary to build a modern state, but promised to review the economic and political situation to avoid problems in the future. The King blamed "external parties" for the riots and said, in what was seen as an implicit reference to Iraq, that "there are many confessions with us that prove that a large part of this disension had its origins outside the country with government decisions, commitment, support and incitement." Later, the King asked: "Is Iraq better than Jordan? Do you want us to suffer like the Iraqi people? Is there freedom of expression in Iraq?" The IAF, whose 16 members in the House led a 23-strong group in vain efforts within Parliament to thwart the government's decision to raise the price of bread, on Thursday submitted to the King a petition calling for a reversal of the decision, an end to the military presence in the trouble-hit Karak in the south and the release of detainees held in connection with the disturbances. Speaking to the Jordan Times on Friday, Hamzeh Mansour, spokesman for the IAF bloc in Parliament, said of the King's address: "I think the speech emphasised democracy, which in

Jordan requires an improvement (through changes) in constitutional and electoral laws." Mr. Mansour, noting the King's emphasis on national unity, said: "We fully support the King in stressing this. We must stand united in the face of those who work against national unity." At the same time, the IAF deputy said, "we also need greater equality in terms of job opportunities, education and services." In its petition submitted to the King on Thursday, the IAF called for more democratic dialogue and legislative reform. The petition, signed by 23 deputies, said the signatories were keen on "defending the nation, safeguarding national interests and ensuring national progress." It said the only way to ease tension was to cancel the decision to increase the price of bread, removing the military from Karak and releasing those detained after the disturbances. It called for a "national dialogue" to be held under the direct guidance of King

Hussein to "ensure that genuine reform is adopted to legislation, policies and regulations." Noting that past governments had failed to adopt genuine reform, the deputies also called for a "well-designed" information policy "capable of relaying facts to the people and guiding public opinion." Following are major excerpts from the King's address to the parliamentarians on Thursday: "No one can be a good citizen unless he or she displayed genuine affiliation to their country and nation. The Jordanian people must shoulder their responsibilities, protect national unity and prevent a recurrence of such events that had occurred in the southern regions of the country. "What happened in the past few days were painful events and let us hope that they would be the last and mark the beginning of a new stage in our life and in our endeavours for a prosperous future."

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## Jordan expels Iraqi diplomat

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The government has ordered an Iraqi diplomat to leave the Kingdom after he was found to be gathering intelligence information in another worsening turn to ties between Amman and Baghdad, informed sources said Friday. Adel Ibrahim, press attache at the Iraqi embassy here, is the second Iraqi diplomat asked to leave Jordan in five months. His expulsion follows charges that the Baghdad government had instigated bread riots in southern Jordan on Aug. 16 and 17. Mr. Ibrahim "has been asked to leave because of activities incompatible with his diplomatic status," said one source. The source said that the

notice was given "in the last two days" to the Iraqi embassy here and "enough time has been given to the diplomat to collect his things and leave the Kingdom." Another source said Mr. Ibrahim, who took office here in late 1992, was "found to be collecting intelligence information on Jordan rather than conducting his normal business as a press attache at the embassy." Both sources spoke on condition of anonymity. There was no immediate comment from the Iraqi embassy, but the Associated Press quoted Mr. Ibrahim as saying that he had not been informed of the expulsion decision. In March, Hussein Faraj Khalaf, an assistant to Mr. Ibrahim, was ordered expelled from Jordan on charges similar to those lev-

elled against the press attache. Shortly thereafter the Iraqi consul also left Jordan, but officials said the government had not ordered him to leave but that he had ended his term of office in Amman. Agency France Presse said Friday Press Jordan has also refused to allow another Iraqi diplomat, Khaled Mousleh, to take up the post of first secretary at the embassy here. "The decision was taken after confirming that Mousleh works as an officer for Iraqi intelligence services," said a source quoted by AFP. The source did not rule out "reducing the number of Iraqi diplomats in Jordan to the minimum level," the agency said. More than 20 accredited diplomats work at the Iraqi

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## Government in reflective mood after jolt

By Salameh Ne'matt  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The setting of "Super Friday's" burning sun on the government of Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, without any real disturbance of law and order, may have given a new impetus for the government, which, within six months, fought too many wars on too many fronts. Observers and nailbiters, both in the establishment and in the opposition, looked at the first Friday since the disturbances broke out in Karak as the litmus test for the extent of "popular discontent" in the country vis-a-vis the government's economic policies, and the strength of the "agitators" both at home and abroad in employing the popular grumbling to serve their own political purposes. Yesterday, the establishment, understandably, breathed a sigh of relief, while the disgruntled opposition was forced, among other things, to take stock of the situation, if not backtrack and review its tactics altogether. Having lost their momentum, Mr. Kabariti's political detractors — and they are many — are not expected to give up easily having watched the crisis fizzle out after last weekend's tremor. But their tactics, in view of the swift and resolute response by His Majesty King Hussein on the one hand, and the resilient steadfastness of Mr. Kabariti and his team on the

other, are likely to change, having been overwhelmingly undermined by a sudden and sober realisation that 1996 is not 1989. This realisation was finally made clear by the King's firm and sobering remarks to members of the Lower House of Parliament on Thursday. His full and unflinching support for his government and its agenda, his clear-cut warnings that the political turmoil of the 1950s and the 1970s would not be repeated, combined with his understanding of the economic pressures and his sympathy towards the people, all served to bring about a realisation that there is no repetition of 1989, at least where the continuity of the current government is concerned. The Islamic Action Front (IAF) was the quickest to adjust to the new reality by dropping their demand for the resignation of the government and by indefinitely postponing a planned "march of the hungry million" originally set for yesterday. The real motive of the IAF, which all but declared a truce with the government during the crisis, is very difficult to immediately ascertain. And whether it is sheer pragmatism or self-preservation, it became abundantly clear that the Islamic movement scored points with its constituencies by insisting on demands for revoking the recent price hikes, but more points with the government by cooperating to restore law and order.

It was no surprise, as such, that the King, on Thursday, and for the second time since the crisis erupted, referred to the Islamic movement's "responsible role" in preserving peace and stability in the Kingdom in the past as well as the present. This was, naturally, disturbing for the political left, particularly the Jordanian Arab Baath Socialist Party (affiliated with the Baghdad-based Iraqi Baath Party headed by President Saddam Hussein), which felt it was let down by its presumed major partner in the opposition. The establishment, perhaps now more than ever, is making its own assessment of the situation, with the King calling for a "comprehensive review" that is aimed at identifying any loopholes in the course that the state followed since 1989 the year that saw the launching of the democratisation process. Simultaneously, and parallel to that, Mr. Kabariti will be making his own review of his government's performance in the last six months relative to the last seven years and the last seven governments. Both the establishment headed by the King, and the government appointed by him, are now in a reflective mood. On Thursday the King all but said what he thought was wrong with the way Jordan's democracy has worked since 1989: There continues to be

those who use democracy to abuse democracy. The democratisation process has allowed outside powers and forces to create for themselves power centres in the Kingdom outfunction contrary to Jordan's higher interests under the cover of freedom of expression. The liberalisation of the political system has produced a Jordanian media which (as in the case of the weekly tabloids) either serve external powers or

required and long sought-after change. But change, in a country like Jordan, as last weekend's developments served to remind Jordanians, cannot be achieved overnight, or even in six months. The Kabariti government, which took office only last February, showed that while it was no alien to political realities in the Kingdom, it was still prepared to push matters to the far, and often, dangerous limits of genuine reform. The government, we hear, is also aware that it has to deal with challenges complicated by a residue stretching not only from 1989, but long before, probably since the establishment of the state. The challenge, some observers say, is massive, but the maximum support from the leadership, whether on the political or economic fronts, appears forthcoming. Supporters of the government think it went too fast fighting too many wars on too many fronts all at the same time. They say it pursued a new and effective approach in foreign policy, it started tackling corruption and adopted daring measures for economic reform while sacrificing its own popularity in the process. They recommend, however, the slowing down of the reform process to ensure its ultimate success. The opposition, in the meantime, are betting on this government's failure and the inability of any government to carry the day.

## Talks with Palestinians to resume soon, Netanyahu informs Mubarak

### Egyptian threat to scrap economic summit spurs Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, apparently shaken by reports Cairo might have cold feet on holding an upcoming Middle East economic summit, told Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak that talks with the Palestinians would resume soon. "The prime minister informed President Mubarak about the track which is planned in the talks with the Palestinians which are to be opened in the very near future including via the steering committee," Mr. Netanyahu's office said in a statement issued to the media late Thursday. Earlier on Thursday President Mubarak, speaking to academics in the Egyptian city of Alexandria, said the world could not keep waiting for the right-wing Israeli government to make up its mind about its next step in the peace process. "For the past two months they've been saying we're committed to our obliga-

tions, but when? The Palestinians and the world are not going to wait 10 months or a year. "We have an economic conference coming up and I've told the Israelis that no progress in the peace process will hit the Middle East economic summit because not many countries will attend. That's what we're worried about," he said (see page 8). The Israeli government has not yet taken a decision on redeploying troops in the West Bank town of Hebron, an operation that should have taken place in March. The economic conference is to be held in November. Mr. Netanyahu, who narrowly defeated Labour leader and peace architect Shimon Peres in Israel's May 29 election, insists he is continuing the peace process. But he has so far avoided meeting Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat, failed to move forward on Israel's five-month overdue troop pullout from Hebron,

and angered Palestinians by ruling out a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip or negotiations over Jerusalem. Mr. Netanyahu this week linked the Hebron pullout to the Palestinians shutting down official offices in Jerusalem — a linkage rejected by Mr. Arafat. Hebron, home to 450 Jewish settlers and 94,000 Palestinians, is the last West Bank city under Israeli control. Netanyahu spokesman Savid Bar Ilan would not confirm or deny reports that the premier's top foreign policy advisor Dore Gold was to meet with Mr. Arafat in the Gaza Strip soon. Mr. Bar Ilan insisted that Mr. Netanyahu himself would not meet with Mr. Arafat "until we see the halting of violations (of the agreement) in Jerusalem and in other areas." Mr. Netanyahu said nothing Thursday about when his government might go

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## 5 killed, 5 injured in blast in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Five people were killed and five others wounded Friday when a bomb went off in a market at Bou Haroun in the Tipaza region west of Algiers, security services said in a statement.

The five killed were three women and two children.

In an operation mounted soon after the explosion, security services discovered and deactivated four other devices, the statement said.

The statement said that one of the planters of the bombs had been killed when another device went off but did not give further details.

### Alleged assassins killed

Algerian state television said, meanwhile, three suspected assassins of the Roman Catholic archbishop of Oran, Pierre Claverie, have been killed by the security forces.

Five others were arrested for extending logistical support to the men believed to have killed the bishop, who was blown up in his car along with his driver on Aug. 1, the television said.

It showed images of the three slain men, identifying them as Slimane Ouis, alias Abdul Karim, Fethi Taibi, alias Walid, and Hocine Seghir, alias Abdul Jalil.

They died during a raid mounted by the security forces on their hideout in the Little Lake district of Oran, where they refused to give themselves up, the television said. It did not say when the raid took place.

Last week Al Watan newspaper reported that five extremists, implicated in the bishop's death, were killed on Aug. 11 in Little Lake, together with a sixth in the centre of Oran, in western Algeria.

The television said Thursday that a Scorpio automatic pistol, fitted with a silencer and belonging to Seghir, had been seized, as were a sawn-off shotgun owned by Ouis and a Mauser automatic pistol used by Taibi.

The five who were arrested have been charged with extending logistical support to the bishop's suspected killers, including transport, shelter and surveillance of the victim, the television said.

The five were named as Mohammed Kouadria alias Salim, Kaddour Aidouni alias Adel, Abdul Karim Benkarim, Houari Larbi and Ahmad Seghier, alias Hmdia.

All said they had played no direct part in the murder of Arch. Claverie but had provided help to the three charged with the killing.

Aidouni said on television that he had driven the three suspected killers in his car. He said they told him they intended to plant a bomb at the bishop's residence. Aidouni said Taibi was carrying a red rucksack which appeared to be very heavy and which presumably contained the explosives used to kill Arch. Claverie.

The bishop was murdered as he was returning from a meeting with French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette who was then on an official visit to Algeria.

"They asked me to go back to pick them up at exactly 10:30 p.m.," said Aidouni, who has a slight stammer. "When they got into the car, they seemed scared. On the way they said that in five minutes, the bomb would go off."

Houari, for his part, said the three men had laid their plans for Arch. Claverie's murder a long time in advance and had also conspired to kill a French tradesman in the same district and a journalist employed by the radio.

Mr. De Charette said in a statement reported by the magazine Paris Match that Arch. Claverie's murder was unconnected with his own visit to Algeria. He quoted the bishop of Constantine in eastern Algeria, Gabriel Poirouard, as saying the attack "would have happened anyway and would have required long and careful planning."

## Germany denies deal with Iran over Kurdish killings trial

BONN (Agencies) — Germany on Friday denied that it had reached a secret deal with Iran to free an Iranian and four Lebanese on trial in Berlin for the killings of four Kurdish leaders.

Former Iranian President Abolhassan Bani Sadr said Thursday in Berlin that he feared the German government had struck a deal with Tehran to free the five if they are found guilty as swiftly as possible.

He based his accusations on a meeting in May between Bernd Schmidbauer, the government coordinator of the German secret services, and the son of Iran's president Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

According to his information "what happens after the trial was discussed," he told a press conference. But deputy government spokesman Herbert Schmelling hit back Friday in Bonn saying the accusations were "absurd."

Mr. Schmidbauer, a top aide to Chancellor Helmut Kohl who backs the European Union (EU) stand on maintaining a "critical dialogue" with Iran, visited Tehran as part of a humanitarian mission, he added.

Mr. Schmidbauer took centre stage in July when he supervised a landmark swap between Israel and the Lebanese Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas. The two ex-Isra'el prisoners and the remains of soldiers and anti-Israeli fighters killed since the mid-1980s in fighting in southern Lebanon.

Earlier Thursday Mr. Bani Sadr told the Berlin hearing that the 1992 assassinations of the four Kurdish leaders slain in a gun attack on a Berlin restaurant was approved by both Mr. Rafsanjani and Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Giving evidence for a second day Friday, the former president said he had warned the four including the leader of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, Sadeq Sharafkandi, that they were in danger after learning of the planned attack two months before it was carried out.

But Iran's top legal official lashed out at the German court Friday for hearing Mr. Bani Sadr's testimony.

"The testimony of an outcast and a fugitive does not lend any credibility to a trial," Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi told a congregation during weekly prayers at the University of Tehran.

"Why hear the testimony of someone who was cast out and fled the country?" Ayatollah Yazdi added. An Iranian and four Lebanese have been on trial since October 1993 charged with gunning down the four leaders of the Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan in a Berlin restaurant on Sept. 17, 1992. Iran has denied any involvement in the assassination. Mr. Bani Sadr was the Islamic republic's first head of state until his ouster in June 1981 under pressure from Islamic fundamentalists. He has lived in France since.

For the hearing, the Berlin court building had been sealed off with police vehicles and sharpshooters wearing bullet-proof vests were posted on surrounding roofs.

Mr. Bani Sadr said earlier this week that hit-squads had been despatched to Berlin to assassinate him too.

## Yilmaz seeks reelection at party meeting

ANKARA (AFP) — Former Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the centre-right main opposition Motherland Party, will seek reelection as party chief against a former economy minister at a Motherland congress Sunday.

"We will work hard to bring Motherland back to power if I am elected," Mr. Yilmaz told the Istanbul-based liberal daily Hurriyet on Friday.

Mr. Yilmaz, 48, was prime minister in the short-lived right-wing coalition government with the True Path Party of Tansu Ciller, who is now foreign minister, between March and June this year.

This government failed after weeks of personal disputes between Mr. Yilmaz and Mrs. Ciller, who was in Turkey's classical right since 1993 when Mrs. Ciller became True Path's leader.

After breaking up with Mr. Yilmaz, Mrs. Ciller set up an alliance with the pro-Islamic Welfare Party in late June and Welfare leader Necmettin Erbakan became prime minister.

"Unfortunately, under Mr. Yilmaz's leadership Motherland's rule was very short. I pledge to restructure the party if I am elected leader," Isin Celebi, Mr. Yilmaz's rival in Sunday's leadership vote, said.

Mr. Celebi, 46, a deputy from the western city of Izmir, was state minister responsible for the economy between 1989 and 1991.

Political analysts here said that Mr. Yilmaz's chances to be elected leader of the party would be higher at the party congress in which nearly 1,200 delegates will vote for the chairman.

Motherland was created by the late president and prime minister, Turgut Ozal, in 1993 during a military regime which followed a coup in 1980.

It won the 1983 general elections held in an atmosphere of bans on political parties closed down after the coup.

Ozal became president in 1989 and Mr. Yilmaz was elected Motherland leader in June 1991.

Mr. Yilmaz led Turkey to early general elections in October that year, a ballot he lost. His Motherland won 20 per cent of the national vote in the December legislative election last year, running second after Mr. Erbakan's Welfare Party.

## Baker tried in secret to push Syria-Israel negotiations

TEL AVIV (AP) — Former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker carried out a secret round of shuttle diplomacy in an effort to restart Israeli-Syrian talks last year, Israel's outgoing ambassador to the United States was quoted as saying Thursday.

Mr. Baker, who served under Republican President George Bush, got the green light from U.S. President Bill Clinton after the Syrians asked for his help, Itamar Rabinovich told Israel's Haaretz newspaper.

Gadi Baltiansky, spokesman for the Israeli embassy in Washington, told the Associated Press Thursday that the Syrians approached Mr. Baker in an effort to spur negotiations. He said Mr. Baker went both to Syria and Israel but "nothing came of it."

Mr. Rabinovich, Israel's chief negotiator with Syria under the former Labour government, said Mr. Baker met with Syrian President Hafez Assad and the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the latter half of 1995, but failed to restart talks.

In the interview, Mr. Rabinovich also denied that Rabin or his successor, Shimon Peres, had promised to meet Syria's demand for the return of the Golan Heights.

"I state unequivocally that Rabin and Peres did not at any time promise the Syrians they would receive the Golan Heights back," he said.

Asked if it would be possible to achieve peace with Syria without returning all of the Golan, Mr. Rabinovich said: "It will be difficult to reach an agreement without this as the base, but I do not believe in definitive 'state-made' in any direction."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### 50-station metro planned for Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Plans are being drawn up to build a 50-station metro in Jerusalem at an estimated cost of \$500 million, the local newspaper Kol Ha'ir reported Friday. Twenty-five kilometres of track, much of it under ground, would link downtown Jerusalem with the northern suburbs of Neve Yaacov, Pisgat Zeev, French Hill and Ramat Eshkol and Guilo and Talpiot in the south, it said. The newspaper said that municipal officials were hesitating to ask the government for financing because they were hoping to operate the service solely on their own. Kol Ha'ir said a first installment of \$80 million is expected to be released by the local authorities this year for surveys of land needed for the project. Test drilling for a metro in Tel Aviv was carried out on Sunday. The Tel Aviv metro, which is scheduled to open in five years, will involve 20 kilometres of track, half of it under ground. The Tel Aviv metro project, aimed at easing traffic problems in the city of 1.5 million, is estimated to cost \$1.4 billion.

### Lebanese woman joins Israeli army

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The 18-year-old daughter of an officer in the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) and an Israeli woman has become the first Lebanese woman to join the Israeli army, a newspaper reported Friday. The new recruit, identified only as Daniela, is a graduate of a Beirut high school and speaks fluent Hebrew, said the newspaper. Yediot Aharonot. Her father is an SLA officer and her mother a Jewish woman with an Israeli passport, the daily said. Daniela was quoted as saying that she wanted to "perform her duty by wearing the uniform of the Israeli army." Israeli women generally serve for 21 months in the military but are barred from duty in the self-declared "security zone" set up by Israel in southern Lebanon in 1985. The newspaper said the rules could be bent in Daniela's case to allow her to visit her parents in southern Lebanon, where they live. She would also receive a number of other benefits such as a higher allowance, it said. At the end of her military service, Daniela will be eligible to apply for Israeli citizenship, the newspaper said. A military spokesman in Tel Aviv refused to comment on the report.

### Israeli foreign minister to visit Egypt

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy is to make a visit to Egypt in the coming weeks, officials said Friday. The visit, agreed upon during a telephone conversation late Thursday between Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is to take place by early September at the latest, they said. The visit comes amid tensions in Israeli-Egyptian relations over the apparent deadlock in the peace process since right-wing Likud leader Netanyahu took office in June. Mr. Mubarak on Thursday threatened to scrub a Middle East economic conference scheduled to take place in Cairo in November unless Israel makes progress in the peace process. The U.S. State Department on Thursday rebuffed Mr. Mubarak's threat to scrap the conference. "We continue to look forward to an economic meeting in Cairo in November," said a State Department spokesman. "We hope that the November economic meeting goes forward."

### Militants kill father, 2 sons in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Suspected extremists shot and killed a man and two of his sons in southern Egypt, apparently believing them to be police informers, Egyptian newspapers reported Friday. The state-owned Al Ahram and Al Gomhouriya newspapers quoted security officials as saying the attack occurred Thursday while the three were shopping in the village of Nawa in Minya province, 220 kilometres south of Cairo. The officials, who were not named, said the assailants opened fire with automatic weapons on Mahmoud Abdul Hakim Abu Nasser and his sons, Mar'ee and Ridha, killing all three. Abdul Nasser, 65, was chief guard in the village. Militants have often accused civilian guards of working as informers for government security forces. It was the second incident in the area this week. On Wednesday, extremists killed two Christian brothers and wounded a third man in Malawi province, 260 kilometres south of Cairo. Extremists launched a campaign of violence in the spring of 1992 to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Police have cracked down hard, and most of the violence in recent months has been confined to southern Egypt.

## Salang Highway open but Dostum still wants autonomy

KABUL (AFP) — Ex-communist General Abdul Rashid Dostum, who recently agreed with Kabul authorities to reopen the strategic Salang Highway, still wants the regions to have wide powers, Afghan sources say.

"Dostum is still demanding regional autonomy," a senior Afghan official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Dostum, whose National Islamic Movement dominates most of north-west Afghanistan, broke with President Burhanuddin Rabbani in January 1993 in a dispute over power-sharing.

Yet it is generally agreed by the authorities in Kabul that the reopening of the Salang Highway — closed to the public for nearly three years due to factional fighting — is a move towards a general peace.

"There is a much stronger chance for the realisation of peace following recent developments with Dostum," said presidential press spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad.

Rabbani's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masood, whose fighters form the mainstay of the military defence of Kabul, is reportedly also pleased with the rapprochement with Gen. Dostum.

"We have always said that a ceasefire and the reopening of national highways is a first step towards a general peace," said Mr. Masood's press spokesman Amrullah.

Amrullah added that Mr. Masood believed the reappointment of Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in May 1996 should be seen as the beginning of a new Afghan peace process, and it was hoped that other faction leaders outside Kabul would follow suit.

Yet although Gen. Dostum is mending the fence with the new Kabul coalition of Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar, it is unclear what the future political relationship between them will be. Although Mr. Hekmatyar has yet to fill all ministerial posts, Afghan sources close to the government state that Gen. Dostum is hesitant to accept any of them for his faction.

Gen. Dostum apparently objects to the fact that Mr. Rabbani — elected in December 1992 for a one-year term — still serves as Afghanistan's president.

Unconfirmed reports say that Gen. Dostum may accept a seat on the highest decision-making body in Kabul, the so-called State High Council (SHC), which is more powerful than the cabinet of Mr. Hekmatyar's fledgling government.

Mr. Masood, for example, who holds no political or military office in Afghanistan, a man known to his followers as simply "commander", is a member of the SHC.

Mr. Hekmatyar himself has denied being a member of the SHC, but it is well-known that he has attended its meetings.

Even if there is disagreement over who is calling the decision-making shots in Kabul, there is a general understanding that the time for fighting is over and the time for talks has begun.

"We believe we have entered a political era in which sooner or later the warring factions will have to negotiate," said spokesman Amrullah. "Four years of the fighting in Afghanistan has proved that a military solution is not possible."

It now remains to be seen whether the anti-Kabul Taleban religious movement will also lay down their arms and come to the negotiating table.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

15:05 .....Cartoon — Moomin  
15:25 .....Pumpkin Patch  
15:50 .....Drama — Blue Heelers  
16:30 .....Comedy — Big Brother Jake  
17:00 .....News Flash  
17:02 .....Sciences Cartoon  
17:15 .....La Vie Devant Moi  
17:30 .....Pyramid  
18:00 .....Chateau Valon  
19:00 .....Le Journal  
19:15 .....Fait Pas Rever  
19:30 .....News Headlines  
19:35 .....The Tinklers  
20:00 .....The Album Show  
20:45 .....Drama — Miami Vice  
21:10 .....Varieties  
21:30 .....Prism  
22:00 .....News in English  
22:25 The Bold and the Beautiful  
23:15 Feature Film "Shattering the Silence"

### PRAYER TIMES

04:38 .....Fajr  
06:01 .....(Sunrise) Duha  
12:38 .....Dhuhr  
16:16 .....Asr  
19:16 .....Maghreb  
20:38 .....Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church  
Sweith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel.  
632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661656.  
Terrasanta Church Tel.  
622366  
Church of the Annunciation

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 652826.

Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel.  
771751.

Armenian International Church  
Tel. 652526

Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691.

The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking  
Latin Catholics Parish Tel.  
614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department  
of Meteorology.

Hot weather conditions will pre-  
vail with temperatures rising  
above average by 3-5 degrees  
centigrade and winds north-  
west to north-easterly moderate. In  
Aqaba, winds will be northerly  
moderate and seas calm.

### Min./Max. temp.

Amman .....23/36

Aqaba .....28/40

Deserts .....20/39

Jordan Valley .....26/40

Yesterday's high temperatures:

Amman 34, Aqaba 37 Humidity

readings: Amman 25 per cent,

Aqaba 45 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hanna Mansour .....798863

Dr. Sa'ad Tawfiq .....782825

Dr. Ali Shokri .....898863

Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh .....827195

Firas pharmacy .....661912

Ferdows pharmacy .....778336

Al Asema pharmacy .....637055

Natroukh pharmacy .....623672

Al Salam pharmacy .....636730

Yacoub pharmacy .....644945

Shmeisani pharmacy .....637660

Najib pharmacy .....847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir .....276852

Al Quds pharmacy .....(—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ali Al Dughmli .....911466

Khalifeh pharmacy .....985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre .....637111

Civil Defence Department .....661111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue  
.....630341

Rescue Police 192 .....621111

637777

Fire Brigade .....617101

Blood Bank .....775121

Highway Police .....843402

Traffic Police .....896390

Public Security Department  
.....630321

Hotel Complaints .....605800

Price Complaints .....661176

Water and Sewerage Com-  
plaints .....897467

Amman Municipality Com-  
plaints .....787111

Telephone Information (direc-  
tory assistance) .....121

Overseas Calls .....010230

Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs .....623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs  
.....661101

Jordan Television .....773111

Radio Jordan .....774111

Water Authority .....680100

Jordan Electricity Authority  
.....815615

Electric Power Company  
.....636381

RJ Flight Information 08-  
53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-  
53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussien Medical Centre  
.....813813/2

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn  
.....644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn  
.....642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity  
.....642362

Malhas, J. Amman .....636140

Palestine, Shmeisani .....607071

Shmeisani Hospital .....669131

University Hospital .....845845

Al-Muasher Hospital .....667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali .....664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen  
.....777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh  
.....775111/26

Army, Marika .....891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50

Amal Hospital .....674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and  
Special Surgery .....865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
.....09983323

Zarqa National Hospital  
.....09900560

Ibn Sina Hospital .....09986732

Al Hikam Modern Hospital  
.....09990990



## Home News

Jordan Times, Saturday, August 24, 1996 3

### Queen marks 45th birthday

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor marked her 45th birthday yesterday with the inauguration of a student relief fund called "Sandoq Al-Ilm Noor" (Knowledge is Light) a new component of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

Contributions to the fund will be distributed among needy students in public schools throughout the country.

In addition to her numerous activities and projects, foremost among which are her duties as the Chairwoman of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, Queen Noor has been actively involved with finalising the plans of the National Task Force for Children (NTFC).

This year signals the mid-decade mark for children which began with the 1990 World Summit for Children wherein Queen Noor signed the International Convention on the Rights of the Child and children were officially put on the highest level of the world's political agenda.

At this summit, Jordan marked targets to be reached by the year 2000 concerning the reduction of mortality, disease, malnutrition and illiteracy and has already reached a majority of these goals, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

To ensure that Jordan keeps up the momentum, His Majesty King Hussein entrusted Queen Noor last July with the establishment of a National Task Force for Children (NTFC), which has been occupied this past year with developing plans for a children's research and database centre with the support of the University of Chicago's Chapin Hall Centre.

In addition to preparing a television series, the NTFC has also been working in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development to review and develop the Draft Children's Law.

One of the goals of the National Plan of Action for Children (1993-



2000), which the NTFC has endorsed, is to provide a safe and clean environment for the young. Queen Noor, who traces her environmental activism back to her freshman year at Princeton University when the first Earth Day was commemorated, became the Patron of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) last April due to her "continuous support of the RSCN's projects and aims, her activism in environmental protection, promoting awareness and initiating community action" for which she also received the United Nations Environment Programme Global 500 Award last year. Birdlife International, a global conservation alliance that seeks to address global priorities for conservation using birds as environmental indicators, followed RSCN's lead in the wish that she become their first Arab Honorary President.

Integrating environmental concerns with socio-economic development is a cornerstone of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) philosophy.

The NHF, which was founded 10 years ago, introduced a pioneering model to Jordan for com-

prehensive national and regional development by combining goals for self-employment with health, education, national heritage, environmental and community participation.

It successfully advanced and modernised developmental conceptions by progressing beyond traditional charity-oriented social welfare practices to integrate social development strategies with national economic priorities. Its innovative projects and programmes, which have received international recognition as development models for the Middle East and the developing world, are designed for replication throughout the country and the region.

Queen Noor plans to utilise NHF's expertise in comprehensive grassroots development in war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Last month, the Queen, joined thousands of refugee women in Tuzla to commemorate the fall of Srebrenica, bringing economic development aid and international donations from countries throughout the world.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars were raised to fund economic development projects for the women of Srebrenica to enable them to start

rebuilding their shattered lives.

The "Women of Srebrenica Project," whose steering committee is co-chaired by the Queen, U.S. Ambassador to Austria Swannee Hunt and Italian European Commissioner Emma Bonino, is an on-going initiative to focus public awareness on the needs of the survivors and to provide concrete help to the refugees of the former U.N. designated "safe-haven."

Overcoming the challenges of seeking peace in a fragmented world, whether in Bosnia-Herzegovina or elsewhere, is one of the goals of the United World Colleges (UWC) — an equal-opportunity inter-national secondary education programme designed to foster cross-cultural understanding and global peace.

Queen Noor and President Mandela joined forces last November at a widely celebrated ceremony in Johannesburg, South Africa, where they officially assumed their presidencies of the UWC and the UWC International Council respectively.

The Prince of Wales and the President of Italy congratulated them in a speech stating that President Mandela will broaden the UWC's scope, while Queen Noor "will provide with her wisdom and enthusiasm a new impetus in promoting peace, brotherhood and solidarity." The Queen's "presidential duties" have included inaugurating the ninth UWC college in Norway with Queen-Soia, hosting the UWC's first regional conference in the Middle East and giving the keynote address at the 12th commencement of the UWC in New Mexico, where she received "the Volunteer of the Year Award" for her "lifelong commitment to volunteerism and service to others," as well as an annual \$100,000 scholarship for Middle East students.

### School start delayed; but teachers to report on schedule

AMMAN (Petra) — The beginning of the scholastic year will be delayed for one week, Minister of Education Munther Masri announced Thursday, and schools will open on Saturday August 31 instead of today as had been previously announced.

The Minister's announcement came two days ahead of the scheduled start of the 1996/1997 scholastic year.

Dr. Masri said the ministry's decision to postpone the opening of schools for one week was taken to allow for implementation of necessary repairs to certain school facilities which were impacted by last week's riots.

Dr. Masri said the decision applies only to students and that teachers are obligated to report to work today.

He confirmed that the ministry has made the necessary arrangements to compensate for the unforeseen delay in that additional periods will be introduced into the students daily schedule.

A total of 1.3 million students will matriculate in 4,000 schools around the Kingdom next Saturday.

### King designates creation of 'applied university'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has instructed the government to create an "applied university" in Balqa Governorate and appointed his cultural secretary, HRH Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad, as chairman of the university's board of trustees.

In a message addressed to Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, King Hussein said it has become essential to re-examine the educational requirements of the future so that "our society can develop its potentials accordingly, reassured and self-confident."

The King also declared that "the new circumstances which have imposed themselves on the region; the economic and political developments which will affect its future and the challenges facing Jordan call for preparing skilled and qualified human resources as best we can."

"In light of expected transformations in restructuring public institutions I hope that you will set up an applied university to serve as another educational arm embodying the country's educational philosophy while con-

forming with the requirements of the future and opening new horizons uniquely aimed at the Jordanian society," affirmed the King in his message.

He also underlined the following principles concerning the new educational institution:

— The applied university should supervise the progress of community colleges, regulate their academic and vocational levels, help encourage qualified students to pursue a university education and prepare trainees to pursue vocational and technical occupations.

— The applied university should provide guidance to community colleges in carrying out their mission, help develop and improve vocational and technical training and enable these colleges to overcome any present difficulties.

— The planned university should help community colleges overcome financial and administrative problems which have in the past negatively impacted training. It should also protect and guide these colleges.

— The applied university should enhance the concept of sustainable education and ensure democracy in education for all as guaranteed by

the Constitution, as well as ensure the capacity to absorb large numbers of students to ease the burden on government and private universities.

"In the light of the above requisites the government should create a qualified committee grouping specialists and experienced personnel to conduct a serious study of this national project," added the King.

"In recognition of Salt as the base of Jordan's educational and scientific development over the past decades, an applied university in that city would further promote its cultural role and would commemorate the efforts of our predecessors who studied in that city and later served their country," he said, adding "This could be a manner of linking the country's future with its glorious past."

King Hussein received a cable from Salt Development Corporation board members expressing their gratitude and appreciation for his move to establish Balqa University and allegiance to his wise leadership.

### National Industrial Fair seeks to promote quality products abroad

By Christina Schlegel  
Special to the Jordan Times

The National Industrial Fair, organised by the Investors Association of Amman's Industrial City (IAAIC) in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Exports Development Corporation (CIEDC), dedicated its motto "made in my country" to ever improving standards of quality evidenced in various domestic products.

The fair, which opened on Sunday, Aug. 18, at Amman's International Exhibition Centre and will close its doors Monday, showcases 65 industrial companies which represent plastic, electronic, metal, textile, medical and food industries as well as household and sanitary equipment.

The exposition's declared goal was to minimise Jordan's unemployment problems by familiarising the public with

local manufacturers' quality products sold at competitive prices and thus induce them to buy domestic products instead of imported goods.

A brochure issued at the exhibition claimed concern for the future of Jordanian youth in supporting the country's industrial and local markets.

The IAAIC arranged this event especially for the support of its 327 member companies located south of Amman in the so-called Industrial City in Sabab, stated IAAIC Director Abdul Karim Karkash in an interview with the Jordan Times, adding that the association provides assorted services for its members such as plumbing instalments, telephone lines, and electricity.

"The national exhibition is principally organised for its members. Although about 10 per cent of this year's exhibitors are not members as the association has also offered to aid these

companies [in the marketing of their products]," he said.

The IAAIC began organising such shows five years ago, and despite its success — last year's visitors numbered 40,000 — not all members are granted the chance to display their products given space limitations.

National fair joins hands with international counterpart

The organisation received support from the CIEDC, an association which supports various fairs on a global level, and its primary stated goal is that of attracting foreign investments.

Such investments represent a large percentage of the national market and the fair also emphasises the exportation of local commodities to international markets, including non-traditional ones like Italy, Germany, China and Japan.

According to Mr. Karkash the sister to the National Fair — the International Industry Fair held last May — attracted many foreign investors, especially from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Egypt.

Feras Jallad, designer-engineer of Jordan's Universal Die Manufacturing Co. (UDM), the Middle-East's largest corporation for injection moulds, blow moulds and aluminium extrusion dies verified: "Taking part in this international exhibition gave us the opportunity to focus foreign investors' attention on our company's products and thus helped us to increase sales. I think it was a big success. We will definitely join the forthcoming exhibition, designed for business and trade."

The business and trade exhibition is scheduled to start on Sept. 1.

### Jordan rebuffs Israeli criticism of plan for dam with Syria

AMMAN (AFP) — Jordanian Minister of Irrigation Samir Kassar has rebuffed Israeli criticism of a plan to build a dam with Syria on the Yarmouk River.

"We have every right to build a long-awaited joint dam with Syria to exploit Yarmouk River waters," Mr. Kassar was quoted as saying by the local press.

Israeli Environment and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eytan Thursday criticised the Jordanian-Syrian project to erect a dam on the Yarmouk River, which flows through Syria near the border with Jordan.

Eytan said construction of such a dam would consti-

tute a violation of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty of October 1994.

A joint Jordanian-Syrian panel reiterated in Damascus on Wednesday, a 1987 commitment to build the "Al Wahdah" dam on the Yarmouk River, a branch of the Jordan River.

The Jordanian-Syrian committee was reactivated following King Hussein's August 3 visit to Syria, which sealed a reconciliation between the two countries.

A lengthy part of the Yarmouk River runs through the southern tip of the Golan Plateau, occupied by Israel in 1967 and annexed in 1981.

Israel previously threatened to blow up the dam site, a move which prompted the World Bank to freeze plans to fund the project, estimated then to cost \$450 million.

In his remarks Friday, Kassar said Jordan had the "right to seek all avenues so that it preserves its water-sharing rights of the Yarmouk River, and Israeli experts are aware of that."

Israel, which controls common water resources, has failed to provide Jordan with an extra 50 million cubic meters of water this year as stipulated under the peace treaty.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said



Samir Kassar

during a visit here in early August that the water issue was a complex one which needed to be discussed on the regional level, alluding to the potential participation of Syria.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### EXHIBITIONS

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Lina Hiari entitled "Relationship Between Man and Nature" at the Housing Bank complex gallery, until Aug. 31.

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Jordanian artist Khalil Al Kofahi entitled "From Jordan... Man and Charming Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Aug. 29.

\* "Summer '96" exhibition at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until Oct. 8.

\* "A Summer Souvenir" exhibition by Jordan River Design, Adil Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 813081/2), until Aug. 25.

\* Abstract (plastic) art by Hussein Da'seh and Nader Samarah on Jerusalem at the Orfati Art Gallery, Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932), until Aug. 31.

### Talks with Palestinians to resume

(Continued from page 1)

ahead with the pullout, saying only, "we will act responsibly."

"The problem is one of security," he said. "Hebron is very complicated, with two populations living in such crowded proximity. Ensuring the security of the Jewish population of Hebron is not only in our interest, but also in the Palestinians' interest, because violence in Hebron could explode the whole peace process."

Mr. Netanyahu also said his government "reserves the right" to build new Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, but has not yet discussed the subject.

The Palestinians have warned that expanding settlements could end the peace process.

"We want Mr. Netanyahu to understand there's a peace process that's really in danger now," Palestinian Minister Saab Erekat told Israel's army radio.

"All the options of Mr. Netanyahu so far, aside from talking about peace, are leading directly toward a major explosion that will explode in both of our faces."

#### Clinton assures Arafat

U.S. President Bill Clinton has assured Mr. Arafat of continued U.S. support for the Middle East peace process, officials said.

In a letter to Mr. Arafat on Thursday, Mr. Clinton also welcomed the patience and the goodwill displayed by the Palestinian president in the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East, they said.

The U.S. president was responding to a letter sent by his Palestinian counterpart on Aug. 14, the officials said.

In his letter, Mr. Arafat urged Washington to intervene to break what he described as an impasse in the peace process following the election of Mr. Netanyahu as Israeli prime minister in May.

### Jordan expels Iraqi diplomat

(Continued from page 1)

embassy in Amman while the Jordanian mission in the Iraqi capital has only three, including Ambassador Bassam Qaqish.

Jordan has accused a "foreign government" of instigating last week's riots in southern parts of the Kingdom that followed an increase in the prices of bread and animal feed.

In a meeting with parliament members, His Majesty King Hussein said Thursday that some of those arrested after the riots that had confessed that "many of the disturbances that occurred in Jordan were incited from outside with decisions, backing, commitments and instigation from governments which sought to sow sedition in Jordan."

Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who has been leading efforts to distance Jordan from Iraq since February, said last week that the ruling Baathist Party of Iraq had a role in the riots in Jordan.

Several leading members and supporters of the pro-Baghdad Jordanian Arab socialist Baath Party are among those detained in connection with the unrest in the south.

In his comments on Thursday,

the King asked: "Is Iraq is better than Jordan? Do you want us to suffer like the Iraqi people? Is there freedom of expression in Iraq?"

Jordan sympathised with Iraq during the Gulf crisis sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and refused to join the U.S.-led coalition that evicted Iraq from the neighbouring emirate in February 1991.

However, faced with reports of the suffering of Iraqi people under international sanctions and human rights violations under the Saddam Hussein regime, Amman started moving away from Baghdad since 1994.

Relations took a major plunge when Jordan gave shelter to two sons-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam who fled to Jordan along with their wives, both daughters of the Iraqi strongman, in August 1995 and severely criticised the Baghdad regime for its internal and external policies.

The two defectors and their wives returned to Baghdad in February under a reported pardon by President Saddam, but the two men were killed three days after their return what the official Iraqi media described as a bid by their clan to "cleanse the family of traitors."



# Chechenya quiet as Lebed agreement starts working

GROZNY, Russia (R) — The Chechen capital Grozny was relatively calm Friday morning as the Russian army and separatist guerrillas said they were preparing to put 20 months of war behind them and implement a ceasefire.

The ceasefire, which came into effect at noon (0800 GMT), was agreed by Boris Yeltsin's envoy, Alexander Lebed, and the rebel commander Thursday evening.

"The Russian and Chechen peoples have been shown a real possibility, a real chance to stop sacrificing their finest sons in this senseless war," Interfax News Agency quoted separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev as saying.

Gen. Lebed has returned to Moscow to brief the president on the deal and his plan to sign a political agreement this weekend. He threw down the gauntlet to opponents in the military and the Kremlin who, he said, want to wreck the peace.

But thousands of Chechen civilians forced from their homes or into cellars by two weeks of heavy fighting after the rebels seized Grozny on Aug. 6 may have to wait some time to know if Gen. Lebed can make his peace deal stick in Moscow.

Gen. Lebed, who has a shaky political power base in Moscow, said he was acting "on behalf of Russian mothers whose sons have died and continue to die in Chechnya." He predicted opposition from "jingoistic patriots."

Russian generals earlier in the week threatened to bomb Grozny in what Gen. Lebed called "a bad joke."

But early reports, Friday said they were implementing orders to begin pulling troops from rebel-held southern mountain districts and setting up joint patrols in rebel-held Grozny.

"Preparations are going on now for the withdrawal of units from southern districts of the republic to the Chechen plain," Interfax quoted a source at the Russian military command near Grozny as saying.

The agency said Russian forces were obliged under Gen. Lebed's agreement to leave a number of south-



Russian (left) and rebel Chechen officers guard a meeting where Russian Security Council Secretary Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov were striking a military deal in the village of Novye Atagi (Reuters photo)

western districts by Monday and quit the southern Shatoi district by Thursday, Aug. 29.

"Meeting these deadlines is very hard, so we made a start on withdrawing troops without delay," the military official said.

Army and rebel officials said preparations were under way to form joint monitoring units with the guerrilla forces in Grozny to police the city and separate the warring sides. The units were to start operating at 3 p.m. (1100 GMT).

Separatist spokesman Movladi Udugov described Grozny, scene in the past fortnight of the worst fighting since the early months of the war, as fairly quiet in the approach to the ceasefire, with only sporadic shooting.

He told Reuters this came mainly from Russian snipers who had lost radio contact with their base.

Mr. Udugov denied an Interfax report that at least 50 Russian soldiers were killed late Thursday in a battle in Grozny.

Interfax quoted the army command as saying there was virtually no fighting in the city Friday morning.

Army positions had been fired on 19 times overnight in the region, including 13 times in the capital.

Gen. Lebed, speaking to Russian news agencies overnight, dismissed Mr. Yeltsin's criticisms of him in the past week and insisted he would not hesitate to use the powers the president gave him to sack senior officials if they opposed his plan.

"I'm in command here. I have legitimate authority to fulfil the duties I have been charged with," he said.

Mr. Yeltsin's press office could not confirm Gen. Lebed's statement that he would meet the president Friday morning.

Kremlin spokesmen had no comment on the truce nor on Gen. Lebed's plan to return to Chechnya in two days to sign a "political document" on bilateral relations between Russia and Chechnya.

peace but rejects rebel demands for full independence from Russia. Analysts doubt whether, after the humiliation of the army in this month's fighting, he will be willing to lose more face by making new concessions.

Gen. Lebed, however, has said in the past he has no objection to Chechen secession if the region's one million people want it.

Mr. Yeltsin, who gave Gen. Lebed special powers to resolve the Chechen crisis earlier this month, criticised the former paratrooper general Thursday in his first television appearance since he was inaugurated for a second term two weeks ago.

"He always promised to solve the Chechnya problem if he had power. Now he has power. But unfortunately the results of his work are not yet obvious," Mr. Yeltsin said of Gen. Lebed.

"But we will not despair. We will take the issue to the end."

Izvestia newspaper said the criticism raised serious questions and it hinted that the president was out of touch.

"Either the president is still demanding the impossible — the restoration of legal order in Chechnya as it was on Aug. 5, or he is judging the activities of his security adviser on the basis of the situation before Gen. Lebed's last trip to Chechnya," Izvestia said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Yeltsin completed his new government line-up late Thursday, naming Yevgeny Sidorenko as minister for culture.

The team includes one Communist minister — Arman Tuleyev, who is responsible for relations with the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"For the first time in the last five years a Communist, rather than a former one, has appeared in the Russian government," Pravda-5 newspaper wrote Friday.

Both Mr. Yeltsin and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin were Communist Party members. Mr. Yeltsin quit the party in July 1990, 17 months before the Soviet Union fell apart.



Russian Security Council Secretary Alexander Lebed walks with bodyguards past a Mercedes after leaving a meeting with Chechen rebel Chief of Staff Aslan Maskhadov after they struck a military deal in the village of Novye Atagi, some 20 kilometers south of Grozny Thursday (Reuters photo)

## Bangladesh prime minister accuses opposition of orchestrating violence

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed has accused the main opposition party of orchestrating widespread violence which has left three dead, hundreds injured and forced the closure of universities in the past week. It was reported here Friday.

In a stormy session of parliament late Thursday she charged the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) with taking part in a "well-planned conspiracy" to topple her government by staging clashes between students and police.

"They (BNP) have taken up a secret programme to disrupt the law and order situation by launching attacks on police and keeping people hostage in their hands," she said.

Sheikh Hasina's predecessor and BNP leader Khaleda Zia was outside the capital and not available to respond to the allegations. But BNP deputy leader Badruddoza Chowdhury led a walkout of opposition MPs in protest at the accusations and the speaker's refusal to let the party take the floor to respond.

Mr. Chowdhury later denied the allegations and said they were made to justify a government crackdown on opposition. He said the prime minister should stop what he called "government terrorism" against opponents and alleged police were being used for political gain in suppressing dissent.

The row coincided with another outbreak of violence in western Bogra town, sparked by the death of a student in a traffic accident.

A student and a police officer were killed and at least 50 people injured in the gun battle which followed the accident Thursday, a town official said by telephone Friday.

Dhaka University was calm but tense Friday, after three days of campus gun battles and clashes between rival students and between students and police left 45 injured. At least 29 people were arrested and several university officials resigned.

Classes at the 23,000-student university were suspended until Saturday and Vice

Chancellor Emajuddin Ahmad threatened to resign if the government failed to stop the violence.

Meanwhile, police Friday began questioning a leader of Bangladesh's bloody 1975 military coup for allegedly "masterminding a new assassination plot."

"We brought retired Colonel Faruk Rahman to our custody from jail yesterday (Thursday) on a six-day remand for questioning," a police official told AFP.

Col. Rahman was arrested on Aug. 13 along with two other former military leaders.

The police official said the investigation would continue but could not say when the two other alleged coup leaders — Colonel Shahriar Rashid and Major Khairuzzaman — would be brought for questioning.

The three were initially ordered detained for one month at the high security Dhaka Central Jail under the tough Special Powers Act.

Police alleged they masterminded a plot to assassinate Mrs. Hasina Wajed.

The 1975 coup toppled Bangladesh's first post-independence government, killing the country's founding leader and President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with most of his family members. Mrs. Hasina, Rahman's daughter, survived as she was in West Germany at the time.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam earlier said the government had proof of "some kind of conspiracy" against the government involving the three former officers.

The coup leaders were protected by a Constitutional Indemnity Act. Some of them were posted abroad on diplomatic assignments, while others formed the rightwing Freedom Party in Bangladesh.

Mrs. Hasina's Awami League, which returned to power in June parliamentary elections after 21 years in opposition, sacked the coup leaders from the diplomatic service and appealed to other countries not to give them asylum or shelter.

Most of the coup leaders who remained in Bangladesh fled before the new government took office.

## Snoozing man takes slow train to Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (R) — A Vietnamese man who tried to take a snooze in a railway boxcar in Canada found himself locked in and bound for Alaska with no food or water. Officials in the port of Whittier said that they found Tuan Quac Phan, 29, dehydrated, famished and terrified after sailing to Alaska from Canada in the boxcar loaded on a barge, a trip that takes about five days. Sgt. Dan Jewell of the Whittier, Alaska Police Department described Mr. Phan as "extremely cooperative." "Seeing me in my uniform, he kept saying, 'jail better. Jail better.' Mr. Phan's journey started last week in Prince Rupert, British Columbia, where he was searching for a fishing job. "He had climbed up in this boxcar to get out of the weather and to get some sleep," Sgt. Jewell said. "The next thing you know, the boxcar is coupled up and loaded up to a barge and headed north."

## Boris Yeltsin, the younger, to study in England

LONDON (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin's 15-year-old grandson plans to study at one of Britain's most expensive schools, newspapers reported. They said the boy, also called Boris, would start next month at Millfield School in Somerset, western England, where the fees reach £15,000 (\$23,230) a year. At Millfield young Boris will study with pupils from 54 countries. Those joining in September include five from Beijing and three from Hanoi, according to Headmaster Christopher Martin.

## Prisoners get freedom after U.K. blunder found

LONDON (R) — Hundreds of British prisoners looked forward to freedom earlier than expected after a blunder in calculating their sentences was uncovered. Prison sources estimated that between 400 and 500 prisoners would be freed and another 4,000-5,000 would have their release dates brought forward because of the mistake. The error, brought to light by a series of legal challenges, stemmed from the Prison Service's failure to take full account of time served on remand in the case of prisoners given consecutive sentences. The Prison Service confirmed that 33 prisoners were released Wednesday from a jail in northern England and that the sentences of other inmates were being checked. Those unfairly jailed could be entitled to sue the government for compensation.

## Sea lion paparazzi to keep tabs on whales

LONDON (R) — U.S. marine biologists have trained a pair of sea lions to tag and photograph elusive whales as they cruise through the Pacific depths, New Scientist magazine reported. James Harvey and Jennifer Hurley of the Moss Landing Marine Laboratories in California say their sea lions, natural companions of many species of whale, can go where no man or woman has ever gone before. "Any diver knows that when a whale gets going you can't keep up," Mr. Harvey told the magazine. "That is why we know only about five per cent of what whales do." The sea lions — 17-year-old Beaver and nine-year-old Sake — have undergone six years of training for their mission. Beaver once worked for the U.S. Navy and Sake is an amusement park veteran. Mr. Harvey said they could accurately tag whales with a radio transmitter, and could also swim all the way around one of the giant mammals, filming it with a video camera.

## Belgian police dig into night in child sex case

Brussels (R) — Police using dogs trained to find bodies dug until the early hours of Friday at the house in southern Belgium where two young victims of a paedophile gang were found dead at the weekend, Belgian Radio said.

"The excavations at Sars-La-Buissiere continued until three o'clock in the morning (0100 GMT)...apparently without success," the radio said.

It said Superintendent John Bennett, the British police officer who oversaw the excavations at the homes of Fred and Rosemary West in Britain's "house of horrors" murders, was present at the new digging. He refused to comment.

The dogs were let loose in various parts of the property, owned by convicted child rapist Marc Dutroux. All the dogs rapidly converged on one area where digging immediately started.

Police did not use any of the sophisticated radar imaging equipment used by the British in the West case, and loaned to the Belgians.

The radio said investigators would meet again late Friday, and that digging was likely to resume.

Belgium went into mourning Thursday as eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo were buried after a highly emotional public service in the eastern city of Liege.

Mr. Dutroux led police to the bodies at the weekend. He said the girls had starved to death early this year, some nine months after being abducted in June 1995.

Police had earlier rescued two girls from another



Policemen investigate in Marchienne-Au-Pont, southern Belgium, at one of the house owned by Marc Dutroux. Mr. Dutroux is convicted Belgian child rapist involved in the deaths of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, two eight-year-old girls whose bodies were found in Sars-La-Buissiere. The searches came on the day the two close friends were buried after an emotional public memorial service in the eastern town of Liege (Reuters photo)

house owned by Dutroux in the southern city of Charleroi and have stepped up the search for two others — An Marchal and Eefje Lambrecks — who Dutroux admits kidnapping last August.

The search for the girls has spread to other countries, notably the Czech Republic and Slovakia which Dutroux visited frequently.

Dutroux and associate Michel Lelievre have been charged with abduction and illegal imprisonment of children. Dutroux' second wife Michelle Martin has been charged as an accomplice and Jean-Marie Nihoil with criminal association.

Police arrested a fifth person, Michael Diakostavrianos, Thursday. He is due to

appear before magistrates Tuesday.

Mr. Dutroux, an unemployed father of three, owns at least six houses. Underground cells and dungeons to hold kidnapped children have been found in some of them.

In total police have searched 11 houses, removing quantities of video tapes and magazines as well as children's clothing and a gun.

Le Soir newspaper said Thursday that some of the seized tapes showed Dutroux sexually abusing children.

At least 15 children have vanished in Belgium in the past six years. Seven have been found dead, six are still missing and two have been rescued.

The deaths of Julie and Melissa have triggered calls for the reinstatement of the death penalty or at least no early release for convicted child sex offenders.

Mr. Dutroux was released 10 years early in 1992 for good behaviour from a 13-year sentence for multiple child rape.

There has also been a national outcry over revelations of bungling by police during their 14-month search for Julie and Melissa, with police in one region failing to pass on information about Dutroux' activities to investigators in another searching for the two girls.

Justice Minister Stefaan De Clerck has admitted mistakes were made and has promised a full inquiry including the possibility of disciplinary actions.

## Following Taiwan lead, Japanese pilots to train in Russian fighter

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's air force confirmed Friday it planned to send pilots to Russia next year to undergo training in the Sukhoi-27 fighter, while Taiwan pilots were reported to have already tested its performance in Ukraine.

Japan and Taiwan maintain two of the biggest air forces in Asia, with some 520 military aircraft in Japan and 470 in Taiwan, according to the Japanese Defense Agency's annual white paper, published last month.

The dispatch of pilots from Japan's Air-Self Defence Force (ASDF) will be the first of its type to Russia, which shares a maritime border with Japan and was regarded as a potential military threat during the cold war.

"We can't give details at the moment but we have such a plan," an ASDF spokesman said.

The Asahi Shimbun reported Friday that the Defence Agency planned to ask the government to include 50 million yen (\$463,000) in funding for the project in the national budget for the year starting next April.

Under the plan, the agency will send "several pilots" to a private agent that offers training in Russia's major fighter to foreign countries.

The project is mainly aimed at collecting data and studying the technology of the counter-air attack

single-seat fighter, which has been deployed by Russia as well as China in east Asia, the newspaper said.

In Taipei, the mass-circulation China Times reported Friday that Taiwan Air Force pilots flew Sukhoi-27 fighters in Ukraine early this year to test the capabilities of the advanced aircraft.

Information collected from the tests will be used in the island's air-defence strategy against China, which analysts say could employ the use of Sukhoi-27 fighters extensively in the next century, the paper said.

China has up to 38 of the fighters and plans to manufacture them, the report added.

To counter the threat posed by China's Sukhoi-27s, Taiwan has purchased 150 F-16 fighters from the United States and 60 Mirage-2000-5s from France. The first batches of both models are due to be delivered and commissioned in mid-1997.

Taiwan Air Force officials declined to comment on the China Times report, published a day after Taiwan Vice President Lien Chan returned from a visit to Kiev, where he reportedly met with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

At a press conference Thursday, Mr. Lien avoided touching on the subject of military ties with Kiev, which recognises Beijing

rather than Taipei as the legal government of all China.

But he said: "Ukraine is very much advanced in defence technology... leading others in aeronautics and metal industries... How to cooperate (between our two countries) can be considered."

Mr. Lien's visit to Ukraine enraged China, which has regarded Taiwan as a renegade province since the Communists drove Nationalist forces to the island in a civil war ending in 1949.

Beijing condemned Kiev for allowing Mr. Lien to make the nominally private trip, cancelling a scheduled visit to Ukraine by a high-powered Chinese delegation this week in protest.

China has acquired 26 Sukhoi-27 fighters for deployment in eastern Jiangxi province since 1992 and 12 more have reportedly been delivered recently.

The fighters carried out their first official missions in military exercises over the East China Sea at the end of 1994. Friday's report said, adding that four Sukhoi-27s were spotted by Taiwan earlier this year during Chinese drills over the Taiwan Strait.

An African man is protesting against the identity of the... (Reuters photo)

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CANBERRA (R) — The Australian government is testing the... (Reuters photo)

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An African man is carried away by police outside of the Saint Bernard Church where 300 African immigrants have been protesting against moves to expel them from the country. Police cordoned off the area and used tear gas and batons to clear the crowd outside the church as activists confronted them chanting 'French people, immigrants, solidarity' (Reuter photo)

## French police storm church, remove African protesters

PARIS (R) — Police stormed a Paris church Friday and removed 300 African immigrants, 10 of whom were on a 50-day-old hunger strike in protest against moves to expel them from the country.

Hundreds of helmeted police moved in, struggling with sympathisers who had surrounded the Saint Bernard Church in the heavily immigrant Goutte d'Or district for several days.

Witnesses said they broke down the church's main gate and cleared a barricade of chairs to remove the hunger strikers on stretchers.

The protesters' spokeswoman Madjiguene Cisse said they were taken to military hospitals in the Saint Mandé and Clamart suburbs.

Police cordoned off the area and used tear gas and batons to clear the crowd outside the church as activists confronted them, chanting "French people, immigrants, solidarity."

Four ambulances rushed to the scene. Radio reports said some people had blood on their face, but police said nobody had been injured.

Police reported that 60 people were briefly detained and six were being held for assaulting police. Witnesses said film star Emmanuelle Beart was taken to a police van but officials denied she had been detained.

She was among several celebrities, including former Communist Cabinet Minister Jack Ralite and politician and cancer specialist Leon Schwartzberg, who had threatened to chain themselves to the protesters to prevent police removing them.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe, backed by the country's highest administrative court, said Thursday there would be no blanket residence permits for the protesters, but the government would consider their cases individually.

The head of the Movement Against Racism (MRAP), Mouloud Aounit, urged Parisians to rush to the church to protest and scuffles continued outside.



French actress Emmanuelle Beart (left) is led away from the Saint Bernard Church after police stormed it to remove the 300 African immigrants, 10 of whom were on a 50-day-old hunger strike, protesting against moves to expel them from the country. Ms. Beart, currently starring alongside actor Tom Cruise in Mission Impossible, and other celebrities showed support to the immigrants by spending their nights with them inside the church (Reuter photo)

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Police moved in at 7.45 a.m. (0545 GMT), wrong-footing the protesters who thought any raid would come at 6 a.m. (0400 GMT), the earliest police can enter a building under French law.

The hunger strikers, who like the other protesters have been in the church since June, have been drinking sweet tea and taking vitamin pills, but two are said to be in a serious condition.

The decision to send in the police came after Mr. Juppe announced in a television message Thursday that France's highest administrative court, the Council of State, had endorsed his government's view that the 300 Africans were not legally entitled, as a group, to residence permits.

But Mr. Juppe said the government still intended to review their right to remain in France on a case-by-case basis and had no intention of using deportation to break up families or expel seriously ill individuals.

Many of the protesters say they once had residence rights and were plunged into illegality by headline 1993 immigration laws pushed through by then Interior Minister Charles Pasqua at a time of mounting anti-immigrant sentiment.

Lawyers say loopholes in the laws, which also tightened conditions for citizenship, have created a legal nightmare.

Mr. Juppe said the law would nonetheless be enforced.

But the far-right National Front party, which advocates sending home all immigrants, taunted Mr. Juppe for "weakness."

"Words yes, but where is the action?" a front statement said.

## Australia to push for nuclear test ban accord through U.N.

CANBERRA (R) — Australia, disappointed at the failure of talks to forge a nuclear test ban treaty, said Friday it would push for world-wide agreement on a test ban through the United Nations General Assembly.

Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Canberra would sponsor a resolution seeking action from the United Nations after the conference on disarmament failed in Geneva to agree on a treaty text in the face of opposition from India.

"With the support and cooperation of other Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) supporters, we will work to achieve the treaty's endorsement during the current session of the U.N. General Assembly and its opening for signature at the earliest possible date," Mr. Downer said in a statement.

Mr. Downer was visiting China Friday, but his statement was issued in Canberra. Government officials here said Australia would now lead the push to win agreement for the treaty and would seek co-sponsors for the U.N. move.

"We are leading the charge," one official told Reuters. The officials said Australia might seek to isolate New Delhi as there was little likelihood that India, one of three nuclear "threshold" states, could be convinced to reverse its stand.

Mr. Downer said Australia was deeply disappointed at the 61-nation conference on disarmament's failure Thursday to forge agreement on the treaty, which would have banned all nuclear explosions used to test and refine nuclear weapons.

The treaty was blocked by India, which opposed the pact because it did not contain a clause committing the five declared nuclear powers to a timetable for nuclear disarmament.

"Australia and other supporters of the CTBT have come to the conclusion that failure to close on this treaty now would mean the loss of a CTBT for the foreseeable future," Mr. Downer said.

"I am convinced that this would represent a very serious setback for global efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation objectives," he said.

Australia, a middle-ranking, non-nuclear power, has sought to play a leading role in the campaign to end nuclear testing and rid the world of nuclear weapons.

Canberra will present a report to the U.N. General Assembly in September outlining a blueprint for nuclear disarmament.

The report was drafted by a commission of international experts, including former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard and former U.S. Defence Secretary Robert McNamara.

Australian Ambassador for Disarmament Richard Starr told Reuters in Geneva that Canberra still believed the treaty could be salvaged after nearly three years of negotiation and "decades of expectations."

"There is a clear need for friends of the CTBT to consider action so that the whole international community will be able to consider, endorse and sign this valuable treaty," Mr. Starr said.

"We would not want to see a treaty text die in a pigeon hole in Geneva," he said.

Diplomats in Geneva said earlier this week that the five declared nuclear powers — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — considered Australia best placed to present the draft treaty to the U.N. General Assembly in the form of a resolution calling for a swift signing ceremony.

The five have made clear they did not want the pact reopened for negotiation or fresh amendments in New York.

## Taiwan urges China talks, vows to press diplomacy

TAIPEI (R) — President Lee Teng-hui Friday urged China to face the reality of politically estranged Taiwan and sit down to talk, and said his island would not halt its drive for broader international ties.

"It is a fact that both sides have been under separate rule for nearly half a century," Mr. Lee, who doubles as chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party, told a two-day party congress.

The Nationalists, with 2.6 million members, have ruled Taiwan since the Republic of China government was defeated by the Communists in a civil war in 1949 and fled to the island.

"Both sides should face reality, with utmost sincerity and patience, to carry out communication and dialogue...so that we can resolve the problem of national reunification," Mr. Lee said.

Mr. Lee nonetheless stood firm on the island's drive to seek wider "international living space" in the face of Beijing's efforts to isolate Taiwan diplomatically.

"We will continue to expand our friendly cooperation with countries all over the world, to participate in international organisations of all kinds," Mr. Lee said.

The exiled Republic of China government Wednesday kicked off its latest bid for a United Nations seat despite the certainty of a Chinese veto.

On Thursday, Taipei and Beijing each called for a resumption of talks broken off more than a year ago, although China's anger over Taiwan Vice-President Lien Chan's secret mission to Ukraine cooled hopes for any breakthrough.

Mr. Lien said on his return to Taipei Thursday that he had met people of all levels during his private Kiev visit, but declined to confirm Taiwan media reports he had met Ukraine's president and agreed to an exchange of representative offices.

Ukraine, which recognises Beijing, denied that Mr. Lien had met President Leonid Kuchma.

Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province not entitled to foreign ties and has scorned even allies whom it sees as giving political quarter to the island's leaders.

In a report to the party congress, Mr. Lien expressed Taipei's concern over the future of Hong Kong after its mid-1997 hand-over to China rule and said talks with Beijing on transition-related issues should begin as soon as possible.

## UNHCR 'not consulted' over Rwanda refugee move

KIGALI (R) — The U.N. refugee agency said Friday it had not been consulted by Rwanda and Zaire over the planned repatriation of 1.1 million Rwandan Hutu refugees who fled to Zaire in three months of war and genocide in 1994.

Roman Urusa, head of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Rwanda, said in a statement that UNHCR was taking Thursday's announcement by Zairean Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo and his Rwandan counterpart Pierre Celestin Rwigyema seriously.

He expressed hope that repatriation would be voluntary. "We were not consulted about this and although there has been a lot of statements from Zaire, one has to take into account the fact that this has been done at prime ministerial level," Mr. Urusa said.

"We are therefore treating it with more seriousness. What is important is the interpretation of the word immediately," he added.

Mr. Kengo told a joint news conference with Rwigyema that the repatriation operation would begin with closing all Rwandan refugee camps in Zaire.

"The two heads of government have decided to make operational the organised, massive and unconditional repatriation of all Rwandan refugees," said a statement read by Mr. Kengo.

Mr. Kengo's visit was the first by a senior Zairean official since the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels took power in 1994 and drove into exile in Zaire the Hutu government and Hutu soldiers held responsible for the genocide.

Last August, Zairean troops forcibly expelled some 15,000 Rwandan and Burundian Hutus. The expulsions were only stopped after Mr. Mobutu stepped in following an international outcry.

Meanwhile an exiled Rwandan Hutu lobby group said Friday the repatriation of refugees from Zaire could start within a few days.

Innocent Butare, executive secretary of the Rally for the Return of Refugees and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) which says it has the support of Rwanda's exiled Hutus, appealed to the international community to deter the two countries from going ahead with what it termed a "forced and inhuman action."

The RDR has the support of Rwanda's 40,000-strong former Hutu army which moved into Zaire in 1994 with the refugees after the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) took power.

"We have a lot of fear, fear for our people. They (Rwanda and Zaire) have done it before and they will do it again. Our information is forced repatriations will start within the next few days," Mr. Butare told Reuters.

He said the expulsions would be against international laws and had to be prevented by the international community.

## ANC gives 1st official history of apartheid fight

CAPE TOWN (R) — South African President Nelson Mandela's ANC Thursday published the first official history of its struggle against white rule — a saga of bravery, bungling, brutality and ultimate triumph over apartheid.

The 100-page document prepared for Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission records the history and strategies of the African National Congress (ANC) from its formation in 1912 to its 1994 victory in South Africa's first democratic elections.

But most of the statement is devoted to the party's years in exile, when its armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK, Spear of the Nation), waged a David-and-Goliath war against the sophisticated white army of successive apartheid governments.

"The ANC is immensely proud of the bravery, discipline and selfless sacrifices of its MK combatants," it said.

"If captured, they faced the possibility of being tortured to death, abduction and secret execution, combined with intense pressure to become collaborators or be murdered."

"Given these conditions, it is remarkable that very few attacks by MK personnel violated ANC policy with regard to targets with no direct connection to the apartheid regime."

The document defines the command structures that existed across southern Africa, records the rules of engagement adopted by the ANC and reveals the fears of its exiled community.

"The efforts by the South African state to destroy the ANC and MK were unceasing and massively financed...methods included infiltration by state agents and spies cross-border raids and kidnapping," the document says.

The ANC reassessed its definition of the risks associated with everything that we do, then devising practical ways to mitigate those risks," the command's chief, Gen. Richard Hawley, said.

The navy and Marine Corps suspended operations earlier in the year for similar reviews. But officials say no common cause has been found for the crashes, not even the four F-14 crashes.

In the worst incident, an F-14 smashed into a house in Nashville, Tennessee, killing both crewmen and three civilians inside. The navy blamed the pilot, saying he may have taken off at too steep an angle to impress his parents.

The air force passenger jet crashes and helicopter crashes including a spectacular training collision.

The Air Combat Command, which operates about a fourth of all air force planes, cancelled routine operations Friday for a "safety day" and ordered units to examine every part of their operations to find out if anything was wrong and needed to be fixed.

The move came after four crashes in the past month, including one of President Bill Clinton's support planes as it left Jackson Hole, Wyoming, after the Clintons' vacation there.

"We must step back from the day-to-day pressures of the mission and spend a day identifying and quantifying

In one case, state agents poisoned an entire ANC training camp in Angola, almost killing 500 men. In another South Africa bombed the Catengue Camp with precision the ANC believes could only have been based on intelligence from within.

In 1981, the ANC uncovered an intelligence ring reaching to high command of that camp. And in the aftermath, young ANC security staff were given an almost free hand to root out spies.

"The difficult conditions under which we had to operate led to a drift in accountability and control away from established norms, resulting in situations in which some individuals...began to behave as a law unto themselves," the document says.

Suspected infiltrators, some later cleared, were beaten and tortured and detained in inhuman conditions. The ANC names 34 members executed on the orders of a military tribunal between 1980 and 1989, and 50 more who committed suicide.

For almost half-a-century from its founding, the ANC tried to engage South Africa's white masters in a discussion about social and political rights for the overwhelming black majority.

In the early decades it struck to peaceful and legal methods such as boycotts, strikes and civil disobedience.

But the Sharpeville massacre of 69 unarmed black protesters by police on March 21, 1960, led to a rethink that brought the launch on Dec. 16, 1961, of its armed campaign.

The guerrilla war targeted the state, despite calls within the ANC to abandon restraint in the face of state brutality.

The document records that leaders of the ANC and its United Democratic Front condemned necklacing and all forms of lynching.

"Necklacing was never the policy of the ANC... Evidence is beginning to emerge that this gruesome form of reprisal may have been initiated by the state...the direct result of the work of agents provocateurs," it says.

"The fundamental issue we would like to present...is that as a liberation movement, we engaged in a just war for national liberation," Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said when he delivered the document to Archbishop Tutu's commission in Cape Town.

## 2 more U.S. military planes crash in bad year

WASHINGTON (R) — Two more U.S. fighter planes crashed Thursday and the air force combat command cancelled most operations Friday to try and seek an explanation for the proliferation of disasters this year.

A Marine Reserve F/A-18 fighter attack plane crashed into the Atlantic Thursday morning and the pilot was missing.

Hours later an Air National Guard A-10 Tankbuster crashed less than 160 kilometres away and the pilot was taken to a hospital.

They were the latest in a series of crashes including one in Croatia that killed Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, four navy F-14

crashes and helicopter crashes including a spectacular training collision.

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Features

Fast-forward English  
in a new dictionary  
for the media generation

By Ted Anthony  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Quick, convenient E-mail is the medium of choice when 11-year-old Valerie Lampert of Randolph, Massachusetts, wants to communicate with her grandfather in New York.

"Why don't you E that to me?" she tells him. Grandpa appreciates the saying. "E that," Richard Weiner marvels. "I love it."

It's more than familial pride. Mr. Weiner has just completed the significantly updated second edition of Webster's New World Dictionary of Media and Communications, and new ways of using the English language are his biz ("business," as in "show biz").

More than any other dictionary, perhaps, this is a telling bellwether of how fast American English is changing as humanity wades deeper into the information age. It may simply be a 678-page list of words, but it tells the story of the 20th century — and the 21st.

The underlying principle: Mass media is both the carrier and the source of new terms.

"We live in a media culture. You cannot look at the television and not be aware of what's behind the scenes in media," says Mr. Weiner. 69, a longtime public relations man who began his lexicographer's labour by collecting media terms on paper scraps.

"So," he says, "the specialised language of newspaper reporters and others in the communications industry is becoming the language of the general public."

Consider that, disregarding "E" entirely (one wonders, though, how the present participle would be expressed — "eing"), electronic mail just became "E-mail" within the past 10 years or so. And where a "blurb" began as a short lump of text, today authors

and actors "get blurred," born of the media, advertising and entertainment industries — are still barely toddlers.

There's "fax," which survived a happily brief and clunky incarnation as "telefacsimile." And "fedex," now occasionally a verb, which has become so well-known that Federal Express Corp. changed the name of its shipping service to the shorter version in 1994. And "newsmagazine," "tabloid TV" and "cyberspace," all less than 15 years old.

"Our language is expanding as well as changing, and I think that's terrific," Mr. Weiner says. "Now, not just people in the communications industry but everyone of all ages, starting with children, now use terms like 'fast forward' and 'zap' — things that started as specialised terms."

This is not shocking, considering how the walls between media and culture are falling. The Internet allows anyone with a \$9.95 monthly account to carry a message to the world via the World Wide Web. The appetite for all news, all the time has become voracious enough to give birth to MSNBC last month, and Fox will soon follow suit. And fictional accounts of journalism — "Mary Tyler Moore," "Murphy Brown," "Broadcast News" and "The Paper" — continue to glamorise the profession for the public.

Politicians, journalists and actors trade places daily, blurring the line between media and celebrity. Consider Pat Buchanan's decision to leave CNN's "Crossfire" for the campaign trail. Look who replaced him: Former White House Chief of Staff John Sununu.

So if life imitates art imitates life, language naturally comes along for the ride. And more quickly: Mr. Weiner added or updated more than 3,000 entries

since the first edition in 1990.

"Today, if somebody comes up with a new phrase or word, it is spread instantly," says Allan Metcalf, executive secretary of the American Dialect Society. "Instead of weeks and months, now it takes milliseconds. It doesn't mean these terms will last forever, just that they're suddenly here."

Allene Grognet, vice-president of the Centre for Applied Linguistics, sees television and the computer as the two major reasons that language has changed faster in the past 30 years. The computer, she says, affects it in two ways — by being a widely used machine and by connecting people via modems and the net.

"It is obvious that the mass media has affected English a great deal over the last 30 years," Grognet says. "And it will continue and grow very fast as computers and the Internet grow very fast. They are the new generation of affecting the English language."

As for Mr. Weiner, whose granddaughter knows how to work the VCR better than he does, his dictionary is an attempt to keep up with the vocabulary of an increasingly complex world — from "adult contemporary" (a format of radio stations that emphasises current popular music but not hard rock) to "Zine" (a special-interest publication, generally produced by amateurs).

"We still live in an age in which people have a high respect for media, or if not that, at least a focus on it," Mr. Weiner says. "And I think that it can be a good thing. I think that as a result of our global media society, people are more knowledgeable about more different fields than ever before."

Webster's New World Dictionary of Media and Communications. Macmillan. \$27.95.

Calm prevails throughout Jordan  
with two peaceful demonstrations

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Gammo's brother, Jamal, told the Jordan Times that pro-Iraq slogans were shouted after the arrest of his brother. The authorities arrested a second brother, Nidhal, he said.

In Karak, a demonstration of about 300 people was peacefully dispersed minutes after it started in front of the main Omari Mosque at the city centre. Eyewitnesses said that worshippers in the mosque were addressed by former Islamist Deputy Ahmad Kafawin who spoke against the increases in bread prices, and according to some accounts, against the government.

Karak Mayor Ahmad Mahadin, an Islamist, told the Jordan Times that the Islamic Action Front distributed leaflets demanding the reversal of the decision to raise bread prices and to release all those who were arrested after the riots.

Dr. Mahadin said the leaflet, which was handed out to worshippers, stressed the need to preserve national unity but said "no to the government."

The authorities eased the curfew on Karak, lifting it till 10 p.m. instead of 6 p.m. Thursday, residents said. But security forces maintained heavy presence on the streets, especially at noon prayers time, before they withdrew later in the evening.

The curfew, which has been lightly enforced, was being relaxed gradually since Sunday.

But the mayor and other residents described as "very calm" the situation in the city and surrounding villages.

"The situation is very, very

calm and there are residents and tourists sitting on the terrace (of the Karak restaurant), manager of the restaurant Saqr Masarweh told the Jordan Times. Restoration works on some of the buildings that suffered damage during the riots have begun.

Mr. Masarweh said the address King Hussein made to members of the Lower House Thursday was a major factor in calming the situation.

"The speech was very candid and assuring," he said. "People felt that speech assured them the situation would be improved," Mayor Mahadin said.

In his speech, the King said a review of the political process will soon be started with the aim of determining the causes of what had happened. The King, who on Wednesday met with parliamentarians from the south, described as "my family" Jordanians in all parts of the Kingdom but criticised the attacks on public properties, including a kidney dialysis unit which he had personally donated to the city of Tafleh.

Observers said the meetings the King and the prime minister held with unions, deputies and other groups also played a role in restoring calm.

Mr. Kabriti on Thursday promised to study a request by the professional associations' presidents to release those detained following the riots.

During a meeting with the Council of Presidents of Professional Associations, Mr. Kabriti said the government was keen on keeping doors open for responsible dia-

logue on all national issues.

Press reports quoted official sources as saying that some of the detainees have already been released. Karak residents confirmed these reports. The government has accused Iraqi sympathisers of inciting the riots and has started an arrest campaign that mainly targeted political party members suspected of being close to the Iraqi regime (see separate story).

But Karak residents insisted that the riots were a spontaneous reaction to increased economic difficulties in a governorate which they said was among the poorest in the Kingdom.

The estimated 2,000 people who took part in the riots in Karak Friday and Saturday shouted slogans demanding the resignation of the government and the reversal of the decision to hike bread prices.

Mr. Kabriti said last week that the government was aware of poverty pockets in the Kingdom and that it was his government's responsibility to work to solve this problem.

The government had said it had no choice but to lift the subsidies in implementation of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-agreed economic reform programme on whose success it said the Kingdom has pinned its hopes for economic recovery. The government said the step was also essential for correcting structural deformities that had led to waste, smuggling and corruption.

The government will maintain the course of economic reform aimed at reviving the economy and improving living standards, giving special attention to the poor," said Ms. Taher.

Coming to Croatia? Well, mind your language!

By Peter Cunliffe-Jones  
AFP

B.C.

Johnny Hart

ZAGREB — Coming to Croatia for your holidays next year? Well, be advised. Tear up your old Serbo-Croat phrase book.

In this newly independent and nationalist country, which broke away from Belgrade in 1991, the use of language is changing.

It is no longer de rigueur, for instance, to wish someone a cheery "prijetno" — or have a nice day — as you wander out of the shop or hotel.

"Prijetno" is "Serbian" word this reporter was told here last week. It is much better to mumble "dovidjenja" — goodbye in both Serbo-Croat and the new "Croatian".

In their efforts to instil a new nationalism in Croatia, Zagreb authorities have quietly backed an attempt by some linguistic hardliners to reform the formerly "Serbo-Croat" language into a language that is more distinctly "Croatian".

While a long-mooted bill to force standardisation of the "Croatian" language is officially on the backburn-



er, a "Croatian" linguist has published an officially-backed dictionary to "Croatise" the language.

The "dictionary of the excessive use of foreign words in the Croatian language" has been foisted on bureaucrats, journalists and politicians, providing newly composed alternatives to "Serbian" and other foreign words.

Applying for officials documents, people are told, they should use the new language, dropping imported and "Serbian" words for "Croatian" words.

The car is the "samovoz" (literally the self-driver) not the "automobil".

The mobile-radio receiver

or "voki-toldi" is the "nosiglas" or carry-voice.

On a hot date? The word for the male member has been somewhat imaginatively changed.

From a Serbo-Croat "penis", it has, in Croatia, become a poetic "milokliz" or "that which slides in gently".

Satirists have, of course, made much fun of these changes of language.

A 25-year-old former soldier told AFP last week that he had been sent a message, during a battle south of Zagreb with Serb rebels last year, and that so as to maintain secrecy he had been told to send his response by "dalekounnoztelji".

"I had no idea what they wanted me to do. If they had asked me to send a fax, I'd have known," he told this reporter.

For the young, and those living in more tolerant areas of Croatia, the language issue — if irritating — is a bit of a joke.

But in the more nationalist areas, the wrong use of a non-Croatian word, particularly by someone from the former Yugoslavia, can provoke hostility.

A surly official in the former rebel Serb-held town of Koin flew into a fit last weekend when asked for information by a Bosnian reporter about the possibility of travel by "voz" — one

of the several Serbo-Croat words for train.

The word to use in Croatia was "vlak." There were "no excuses" for using non-Croatian words. "Voz" was a "terrible" word. "The last voz left Knin a year ago" with the rebel Serbs, he stormed.

For the traveller, a worried tourist guide said here last week, the best advice, in fact, is to try speaking one of a number of alternative languages spoken here.

French is understood by the elderly. Italian, goes down well in the north and German is well-understood in many places. Among the young, the best thing is to speak English.

U.S. diplomats reflect changing, aging America

By Sarah Jackson-Han  
AFP

WASHINGTON — American diplomats aren't what they used to be, and U.S. officials say that's a good thing.

Long viewed as a sinecure for well-born white men, the U.S. foreign service — America's diplomatic corps — has begun to reflect a domestic population that is older and more likely to change careers. And U.S. diplomats are more ethnically and racially diverse than ever before.

Eva Groening, who emigrated from Poland at age 12 and now works as a political and military affairs officer at the State Department, joined the foreign service after nearly a decade as an English professor.

Ms. Groening, whose responsibilities include preventing nuclear smuggling from the former Soviet Union, has since held two posts in Poland, where she found her native language skills invaluable.

While Ms. Groening's late entry into the foreign

service would have been an aberration just 15 years ago, officials say such mid-career recruits — including a large number of lawyers and academics — are becoming routine.

Women, minorities, and first- and second-generation Americans are also taking up more of the 10,000 foreign service posts in five federal agencies that make up the diplomatic corps: The State Department, U.S. Information Agency, Agency for International Development, and small components in the departments of agriculture and commerce.

Though she remains one of few immigrants in the foreign service, Ms. Groening and others say they see more and more second-generation Americans — many of them Asian-American and Hispanic — with valuable, near-native fluency in their parents' first languages.

Long-term comparative data are few, since the State Department began computerising its personnel records only in the last several years.

But officials say — and

anecdotal evidence suggests — that the diplomats who represent U.S. interests abroad increasingly reflect radical changes in the workplace in the country as a whole.

The number of women entering the foreign service has increased steadily in the last 20 years to about 40 per cent in some classes, according to Foreign Service Director-General Anthony Quainton.

The median age of new officers has meanwhile risen from mid-20s to mid-30s, as Americans increasingly change careers and as demand rises — in the foreign service as in the private sector — for specialised skills, training, and graduate education.

Promotions are fewer and retirements more common in an era of aggressive belt-tightening, but slightly older officers still have a good chance to become ambassadors. "Someone who comes in at 35 can get right to the top," Mr. Quainton said.

Nonetheless, the State Department, which employs the vast majority of foreign service officers,

has drawn sharp criticism in the past for failing to move quickly enough toward a more diverse workforce.

As recently as September 1995, the U.S. General Accounting Office noted that while women and minorities had markedly increased their representation at all levels in the State Department since the early 1980s, more than three-quarters of senior positions still went to white men.

Senior officials say that is changing, but such statistics bolster a popular perception of the foreign service as an elite, effete, and ultimately expendable prep-school club.

That image makes its officers groan — and fear that the next round of federal budget cuts may hit them even harder than the last.

"The impression that somehow we all live a life of slippery ease overseas," Mr. Quainton said in an interview, "is disturbing, because it makes it difficult for us to get resources."

Knowledge of a second language is not required to enter the foreign service,

but getting in is still tough.

Only 175 out of 11,300 people passed the entire entrance exam in each of the last three years it was given, and recruiters expect similar numbers when testing resumes this fall after a two-year freeze on hiring due to budget cuts.

Retired lawyer Isaac Russell first passed the foreign service exam in 1953 but was drafted before he could accept a diplomatic appointment. Three years in law school then pushed him over what was then a strict age limit for incoming officers, and Mr. Russell assumed he had simply waited too long.

Thirty-three years later, he found that new laws had raised the upper age limit for incoming officers from 35 to 59, and in 1989 he began a second career that took him to Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast and Ethiopia.

"To find out the law had changed in my favour was just unbelievable," Mr. Russell said. "Mostly you don't get your childhood dreams offered back again."

King opens channel for dialogue after crisis

(Continued from page 1)

"It is regrettable to see some elements still clinging to the old schools of the 1950s in terms of their affiliations and ideologies. One cannot be a good citizen if he or she lacks the sense of national belonging."

The recent incidents saw the destruction of private and public properties like mother- and child-care centres, health facilities, warehouses containing school textbooks, electricity cables, cars and banks.

"I cannot bear all the responsibilities for the country by myself, neither can you or the government. It is clear that all citizens should show real cohesion towards protecting the country and its achievements."

"In the face of disturbance sedition, we are forced to move and foil all attempts at ruining our country and put an end to acts of sabotage."

"Jordan was promised financial assistance at the Baghdad Arab summit but only one Arab country, Saudi Arabia, fulfilled the commitments, leaving Jordan to settle the bill for weapons and arms it had to purchase and forcing the country to resort to borrowing from banks."

"The government's recent decision was a brave one and was taken after we debated it thoroughly and in the national interest. We had to take this decision concerning the subsidies because there was continuous smuggling of subsidised food and animal feed and we have evidence to prove it. The letter of designation to the government was clear calling on its members to deal with corruption and those people who abuse their positions and who act to weaken the country or impede the development process."

"It would have been easier for the government to follow in the footsteps of previous administrations and avoid facing trouble but we wanted from the government to introduce the required change because we wanted to deal with the difficult situation in order to protect national interests."

"We cannot escape our duty and allow the country to collapse, thus losing all that we have built in the past years."

"The reasons for entrusting the government to a great number of deputies is that I wanted this government

to be the best representative of the Jordanian people's aspirations and pursue efforts for improvement, for reform and construction and for fighting weakness in our institutions and to open the way for honest citizens to work."

"There is a big difference between what we had wanted from the weekly press and what it has been presenting. We had wanted the weekly papers to be of high standard and serving as a platform for projecting the views of different people and even writers from other Arab countries because we wanted this press to serve as a catalyst for reform not only in Jordan but in the rest of the Arab World."

Referring to national unity, the King cited the example of a former deputy and writer in a weekly newspaper and said about the writer: "He was able to rally supporters at the court shouting slogans against the presence of Palestinians in Jordan."

"Democracy has its own limits and one cannot exploit democracy to harm national unity. We are a united family and, as I said before, I will consider any person my real enemy if he tries to

tamper with national unity. This is not a country for myself alone; it is home of all Jordanian citizens regardless of their origin."

Referring to the Palestinian question, the King disclosed that following the 1967 war when the Kingdom included both banks of the River Jordan he was offered the return of 98 per cent of the occupied land under a separate peace deal with Israel. "We rejected the offer because I could not cede an inch of the Arab land, which is the right of the Palestinian people."

The King reviewed the developments since 1974 when the Arab summit in Rabat decided that the Palestinians assume the responsibility for their future and the developments since the Madrid conference in 1991 when Jordan provided the necessary umbrella for the Palestinians to negotiate with Israel.

"We took the decision to enter into negotiations with Israel to regain our lands and water rights following the example of Egypt and the Palestinians."

"Perhaps the events of the past days were connected with (the devel-

opment that accompanied the peace treaty) by which (a minority) could oppose the majority that was expressed by Parliament which represents all public sectors with regard to the question of peace."

Stressing that Jordan will continue to provide backing to the Palestinians to regain their rights, the King said: "Jordan will always remain as a strong wall on which Palestinians can lean in their struggle to regain control of their homeland."

The King reiterated that Jordan will continue to support the Iraqi people, noting that Jordan had supported Iraq in the eight-year war against Iran and stressing that the Kingdom opposed Iraq's invasion of Kuwait because it "had always opposed the raising of Arab weapons against Arab people."

"We are still keen on preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq and we sympathise with the Iraqi people and wish to see a near end to their sufferings."



## AFM surprisingly absorbed the shock of riots with relatively small decline in prices — dealers

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Share prices dipped by nearly one per cent this week in low trading, reversing a recovery in the Amman stock market following bread riots in the south of the country, brokers said Friday.

However, the depression turned out to be much less than expected given the repercussions of violent disturbances on any stock market, observers said.

The weekly report of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) said turnover for the week ending Thursday was 2.6 million dinars compared with the previous week's 3 million dinars.

The report said 1.8 million shares changed hands under 2,560 contracts concluded during the week.

The official share price index based on 60 major companies closed for the week at 139.54 points, down 0.66 points or 0.87 per cent, from the week's opening of 140.2 points.

Industrials accounted for 1.28 million dinars of the weekly volume, followed by commercial banks and financial institutions with 830,000 dinars, services sector shares with 450,000 dinars and insurance stocks with 13,500 dinars.

Sectoral indices showed commercial banks and financial institutions losing 0.09 per cent, insurance stock 0.83 per cent, services sector firms 1.66 per cent and industrials 0.75 per cent.

Stocks of 83 companies were involved in the week's trading, with 11 of them closing with gains, 58 losing and 14 remaining

unchanged, the AFM report said.

Pearl Consulting, a private sector firm which maintains its own market indicators, said its general price index closed for the week after dipping by 0.98 per cent.

According to Pearl indices, commercial banks and financial institutions lost 0.68 per cent, insurance firms by 0.49 per cent, service sector firms 1.11 per cent and industrials by 1.26 per cent.

Pearl also said that commercial banks and financial institutions had lost 10.65 per cent since the beginning of the year, insurance by 5.99 per cent, service sector firms by 13.83 points and industrials by 22.65 per cent.

A further split-up by Pearl showed that in the banking sector, prices of commercial banks' stock remained

unchanged on average last week while investment banks lost 1.36 per cent, specialised banks dipped by 2.06 per cent and Islamic banks slipped by 1.01 per cent.

In the services sector, energy firms dipped by 2.97 per cent, hotels and tourism-related entities by 1.9 per cent, transport companies by 0.86 per cent, investment and real estate firms by 1.26 per cent and companies in the education sector and others by 0.41 per cent.

Among industrials, mining firms gained 0.74 per cent and packing companies 0.1 per cent. Chemical and petroleum companies lost 2.24 per cent, construction firms 2.06 per cent, companies in the supply and consumption sector 0.38 per cent, pharmaceuticals 0.62 per cent, engineering firms

1.07 per cent and textile companies 0.63 per cent.

AFM dealers, speaking on condition of anonymity under standing guidelines, said the market had surprisingly absorbed the shock of the riots with relatively small declines in share prices.

"It was as if the market was expecting some development, not necessarily the riots per se," said an AFM dealer, noting that the actual drop in prices, as indicated by the AFM index, was less than one per cent.

"Otherwise the actual impact of bread riots would have been much more severe on the market."

"Now that things appear to have cooled down, we can expect the slow process of recovery in the market to resume in the next few weeks," added the broker.

## Awad: IMF to consider more credits to Jordan in 1997

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Thursday the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was ready to discuss extra credit facilities in 1997 to bolster Jordan's structural reform plan.

Finance Minister Marwan Awad was quoted by the state news agency Petra as saying the IMF's executive council "had agreed in principle to discuss an increase in credit facilities for next year".

The IMF Wednesday released \$60 million, the second tranche of a \$295 million loan to finance a reform and structural adjustment programme.

Mr. Awad cited the statement by the IMF after its meeting giving Jordan high marks for progress on the three-year programme launched this year.

Economists say a 6.5 per cent growth projection in 1996 is on track. But the government is under pressure following the worst riots since 1989 which flared after it doubled bread prices under the IMF-sanctioned plan.

The structural reform programme follows successful monetary stabilisation in Jordan under IMF guidance since an economic crisis in 1989 wiped out its reserves.

The current plan includes privatisation of state utilities, an overhaul of laws, development of the weak domestic capital market and major stock market reform

by setting up a regulatory securities and exchange commission.

IMF-directed targets on credit expansion and foreign reserve levels have so far been met, Mr. Awad said. Jordan has set a \$600 million foreign reserves target for 1996 to cover three months of imports.

Donor nations, expressing support for Jordan's economic reforms, pledged in July about \$1 billion in development grants.

Mohammad Al Erian, acting director of the IMF Middle Eastern department, said in Washington that "Jordan continues to make impressive progress under its structural adjustment and reform programme".

"The Jordanian economy has registered a high rate of economic growth, low inflation, and increasing foreign exchange reserves," Mr. Al Erian said in a statement.

At the same time, he stressed, Jordan has "strengthened social safety nets to assist the poor and compensate vulnerable segments of the population adversely affected" by the economic programme.

Following completion of a review of the loan agreement approved on Feb. 9, 1996, the IMF made available to Jordan a drawing of 4.1 million SDR (Special Drawing Rights), about \$60 million, the statement said.

## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR SATURDAY AUGUST 24 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson.

Astrologer: Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get into creative tasks you like to do today and gain more success with them. Show more affection for your loved ones and they will feel very much appreciative of your gesture in some manner later this evening.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) Forget that little trip you want to take at this time and get busy improving the conditions of your home in case there are unexpected guests and you can also increase its value with some easy effort upon your part.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Avoid disagreements with anyone in business today and get busy shopping, marketing, and handling correspondence which have been put aside for some time. Later tonight you can relax at home with your loved ones and unwind.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Know what your practical aims are today and go after them in an efficient manner and don't let a fellow associate tag along or you will discover some difficulties if there are too many people putting in their two cents worth.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Avoid a fellow associate today who is in the mood to disagree with every suggestion which you may develop or you could get nothing accomplished. Make some fascinating new contacts and learn new innovations which are helpful.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Handle your practical affairs today with the aid of a business expert and take his or her advice to heart and you can gain much success in the effort. Tonight schedule a course of action which will make much progress.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get into the outdoor activities today which appeal to you and you can relax from all of the stress of business activities. You can easily gain a favour from a prominent close friend who has the answers to your questions.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Avoid someone today who is not a good, true friend and is demanding and who could get you in some kind of difficulty if you follow through with the advice provided. Later this evening plan some fun activities.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You can get into some new project today which can be profitable to you if you follow the advice provided by some knowledgeable person. Relax with some hobby tonight and let the stress of business activities drain away.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You are in the mood for a big disagreement at home today, however, refrain from doing so or you could regret the consequences from any such encounter. Be careful in motion of all kinds later this evening to avoid any accidents.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Show that you can overcome obstacles very easily today and get much accomplished through your efforts. Dine out tonight with your loved ones and make it a pleasant evening for all who are involved and have some fun.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) A new acquaintance has ideas today which are not to your liking, so steer clear of this person or you could get in a great amount of difficulty with some bigwig. Later this evening you can see close friends for a fun time.

**Birthstone of August:** Peridot — Golden Quartz

## Mubarak threatens to cancel Mideast economic conference

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak threatened Thursday to cancel a Middle East economic conference scheduled for November in Cairo if Israel does not meet its peace commitments.

"If no progress is made and if commitments are not kept (by Israel) it would be difficult to foresee holding the economic conference," the Egyptian leader was quoted by Information Minister Sawfat Al Sherif as saying.

"I call on Israel to make progress, or there will be no sense in holding the economic conference," scheduled for November 12-14, he added in a speech to university students here.

President Mubarak said that in spite of Israeli declarations of respect for the agreed-on principles of the peace process, "no progress has been made on the ground."

He singled out for criticism an Israeli plan for withdrawal from the West Bank town of Hebron, which he said would spread the pull-

back out over two months.

"The length of the pull-back time will affect the economic conference, and (Israel's) non-respect for its accords with the Palestinians represents a danger to the peace process," he said. Under the Israeli-Palestinian autonomy accords, Israel was to have handed most of Hebron over to Palestinian control by the end of March.

"How can the Palestinians wait even longer and how can the economic conference take place?" President Mubarak said. "If the situation stays as it is, it will have

fall-out on the economic conference and countries in the region will not take part."

The Egyptian leader also expressed "surprise" at Mr. Netanyahu's decision to lift a four-year-old freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and to order new bypass roads for the settlers.

And he said Israel's insistence on putting security before peace was unrealistic because it gave militants the opportunity to derail the peace process by committing anti-Israeli attacks.

"Peace is the right way to

achieve stability and security for all with close cooperation to wipe out terrorists," President Mubarak said.

The two previous economic development conferences for the Middle East and North Africa, which Israel and most Arab states attended, were held in Casablanca, Morocco, in 1994 and in Amman in 1995. The U.S. State Department Thursday rebuffed threats from

President Mubarak to scrap the Middle East economic conference unless Israel showed progress in the peace process.

"We continue to look forward to an economic meeting in Cairo in November," he said. Mr. Davies refused to elaborate on the U.S. view of the Egyptian position but said "we hope that the November economic meeting goes forward."

## Abu Shakra Agency launches Fleur d'eau from Rochas

RAMI ABU SHAKRA, general manager of Abu Shakra Trading Agency, launched Fleur d'eau, the new fragrance from Rochas.

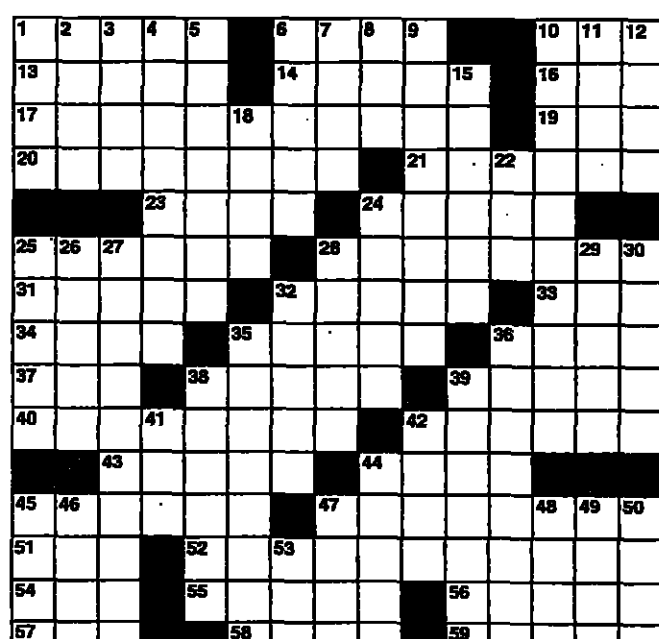
Mr. Abu Shakra said that it is a limpid, transparent, very immediate fragrance that embodies all the paradox of simplicity.

Fleur d'eau are two words that say it all. Each word evokes its own universe, softness and sensuality, freshness and purity.

Flower... Water. Two worlds made for each other. Together they create a water-colour fragrance brushed in soft, airstrokes.

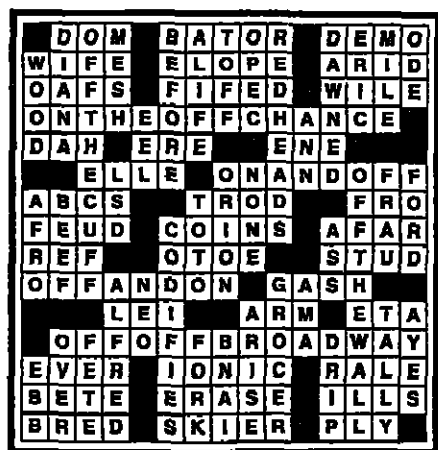
## THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

- ACROSS  
1 Grocers' competition  
6 Math course  
10 Fed. mail handler  
13 Spartan square  
14 Jam makers?  
16 Gun engines  
17 Fun task  
19 Mesozoic, e.g.  
20 Stretch  
21 Involve  
23 Dame Myra —  
24 Feature  
25 Altered organism  
28 Argues against  
31 "Frankly, my dear, — give..."  
32 Creek craft  
33 Tall tale  
34 Domestic  
35 Candle  
36 — Time, Next Year  
37 Indisposed  
38 Was wrong  
39 Approve of  
40 Take to the — (impoverty)  
42 Coe and Bannister  
43 Rip and red  
44 Author Morrison  
45 Large rodent  
47 New York lakes  
51 Egg: pref.  
52 Melanie Griffith film  
54 Compete  
55 Neighbor of Andorra  
56 "Vive —"  
57 McMahon and Ames  
58 Conveyed  
59 Construct



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- 7 Call the tune  
8 Legal Lance  
9 Speed regulator  
10 — Lake, Canada  
11 Scope or meter beginning  
12 White House office  
15 Upper house  
18 Malt kiln  
22 Deadlock  
24 — down (softened)  
25 Parrot  
26 Former US Secretary of the Interior  
27 Grooming aids  
28 Cod and Hom  
29 Indonesian island  
39 Trick  
41 Zero in  
42 Forenoon  
44 Sully  
45 Arouse emotions  
46 Enthusiastic  
47 — and bones  
48 After million or billion  
49 Large reptile, briefly  
50 Trench type  
53 "Norma —"

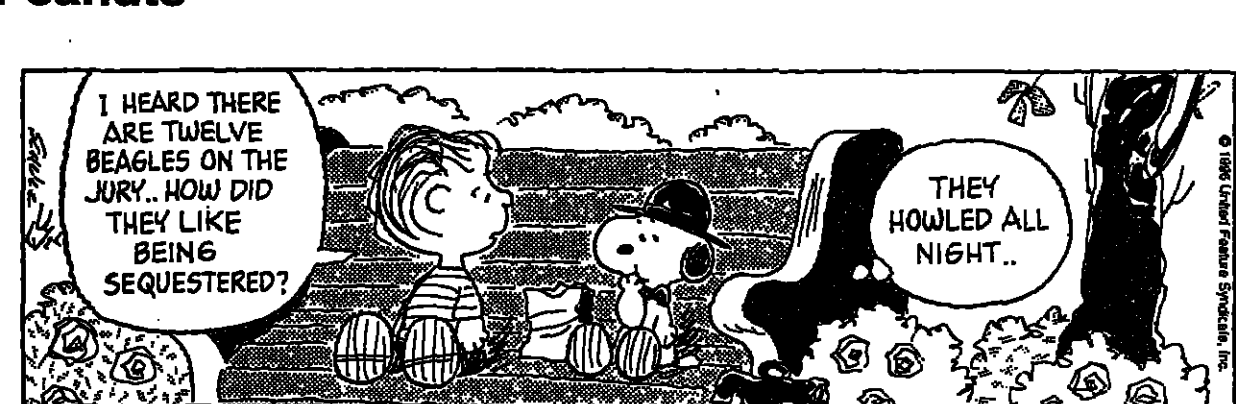


## THE BETTER HALF By Glasbergen

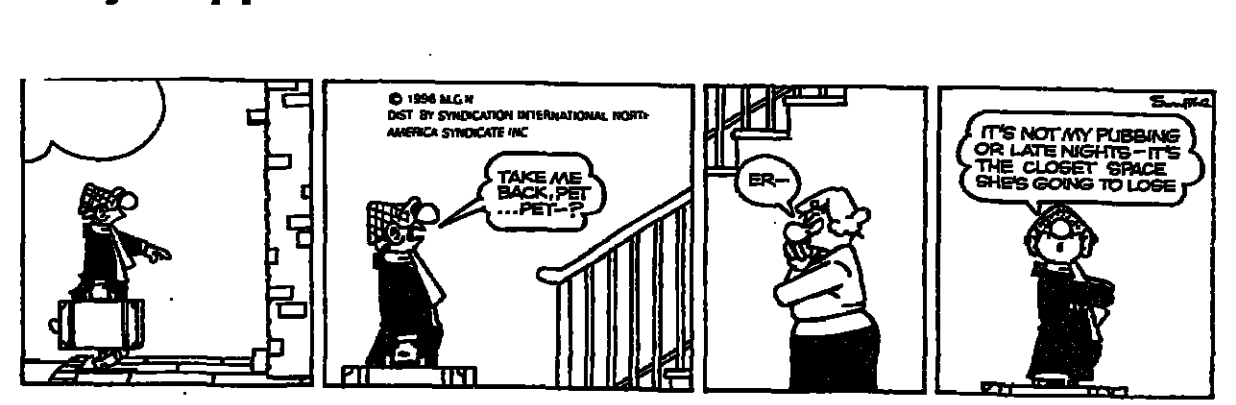


"Our generation sent the divorce rate sky-high. They should call us Generation Ex."

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff





Horoscope  
LORD CAST FOR  
URDAY AUGUST  
24 1996  
By Thomas N. Pierce

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## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

DURING THE LAST 1 WEEKS		COMPANY NAME	P/E	DIV	No. OF CONTRACTS	No. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPENING PRICE	HIGH	LOW	CLOSING PRICE	CHANGE	AVERAGE MARKET PRICE	TURNOVER				
RANK	LOW																	
222.500	214.500	ARAB BANK	12.1	1.58	51	2240	454050	220.50	223.00	219.00	221.50	+ 1.00	220.558	.051				
3.100	3.010	BANK OF JORDAN	11.0	0.00	6	850	2593	3.05	3.08	3.03	3.05	-	3.051	.008				
2.100	.920	WILDFIELD INV. BK.	59.1	0.00	17	14150	12716	.92	.90	.88	.90	-	.889	.142				
4.700	4.400	THE HOUSING BK.	4.9	6.47	3	458	984	2.19	2.15	2.15	2.15	-	2.148	.004				
2.750	2.680	JOR. INVEST. BANK	12.3	3.00	10	18992	85671	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.60	-	4.511	.076				
.960	.980	JOR. GOLF BANK	19.4	0.00	22	7821	21109	2.74	2.73	2.68	2.68	-	2.699	.078				
3.600	3.520	JOR. INV. BK.	5.4	7.69	43	92153	82491	.90	.91	.89	.91	+ .01	.895	.461				
3.600	3.520	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	19.3	0.00	1	250	900	3.60	3.60	3.60	3.60	-	3.600	.003				
1.790	1.720	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	16.8	0.00	46	19505	68643	3.56	3.54	3.50	3.50	-	3.513	.134				
3.100	2.030	JOR. INV. FUND BANK	124.8	0.00	9	2515	4392	1.75	1.75	1.74	1.74	-	1.746	.029				
.240	2.400	BEIT AL MAL (BEITRA)	16.2	0.00	17	3422	10358	3.10	3.15	3.00	3.00	-	3.027	.034				
.380	.240	AMMAN BANK INV.	1.5	6.25	7	3288	7848	2.40	2.40	2.33	2.40	-	2.387	.164				
4.750	4.650	ARAB BANKING CO.	-	0.00	76	126150	31563	.26	.26	.25	.25	-	.250	.841				
1.150	1.100	PELLEGE INV. BK.	23.8	0.00	7	379	1737	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	-	4.583	.004				
			-	0.00	14	3046	3314	1.12	1.11	1.06	1.11	-	1.088	.030				
BANKS SECTOR														329	295219	828367	INDEX NUMBER : 173.10	CHANGE : - 0.09%
2.850	2.850	JORDAN INSURANCE	12.0	5.36	3	222	620	2.85	2.80	2.80	2.80	-	2.793	.004				
2.870	2.730	UNITED INSURANCE	11.4	4.32	3	2750	7621	2.87	2.82	2.75	2.78	-	2.793	.004				
4.200	4.200	JERUSALEM INSUR.	11.6	4.69	3	600	2552	4.20	4.26	4.25	4.26	-	4.253	.004				
2.260	2.220	JOR. PRINCE INSUR.	6.1	9.22	4	1132	2468	2.25	2.20	2.17	2.17	-	2.180	.051				
INSURANCE SECTOR														16	4794	13488	INDEX NUMBER : 120.05	CHANGE : - 0.83%
1.610	1.500	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	10.4	7.84	221	119663	181566	1.60	1.58	1.50	1.53	-	1.517	.798				
9.250	8.800	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	19.4	1.83	4	2100	18445	9.25	9.00	8.95	9.00	-	8.974	.042				
1.440	1.250	JORDAN ELECTRICITY	9.2	7.09	5	3100	4392	1.43	1.42	1.40	1.41	-	1.417	.103				
5.050	4.800	ARAB INTEL. SERVICES	16.3	3.13	5	400	1923	4.90	4.85	4.80	4.80	-	4.808	.005				
2.260	2.200	SHIPPING LINES	9.3	9.09	1	150	330	2.26	2.20	2.20	2.20	-	2.200	.062				
1.250	1.150	BANK. PORTFOLIO	-	0.00	110	49650	34911	1.21	1.19	1.13	1.16	-	1.146	.993				
1.030	1.000	AMMAN EDUCATION	-	0.00	20	19610	20186	1.03	1.05	1.00	1.01	-	1.029	.436				
1.950	1.880	UNITED CO.	9.8	5.35	27	7850	14662	1.90	1.88	1.84	1.87	-	1.868	.157				
.950	.900	UNION LAND DEV.	-	0.00	14	12100	10979	.92	.91	.90	.91	-	.907	.242				
SERVICES SECTOR														411	214737	310476	INDEX NUMBER : 111.20	CHANGE : - 1.64%
26.620	25.000	JOR. TOBACCO & CIG.	19.4	3.13	1	50	1200	25.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	-	24.000	.017				
1.210	1.210	ATTORNEYS	-	0.00	5	1950	2253	1.21	1.17	1.13	1.13	-	1.155	.070				
3.400	3.100	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	18.7	3.06	99	31595	103342	3.36	3.31	3.25	3.27	-	3.271	.052				
2.310	2.170	JOR. PROSPECTING MINS	29.8	0.00	16	12302	34872	2.81	2.85	2.75	2.77	-	2.835	.028				
5.170	4.950	ARAB POWER CO.	15.7	3.85	13	1670	8598	5.15	5.20	5.10	5.20	-	5.149	.002				
9.850	9.150	JOR. PETROL REFINERY	9.4	8.61	69	14331	131243	9.31	9.30	9.04	9.29	-	9.151	.224				
7.100	7.100	JORDAN BANKING	7.4	5.07	2	122	866	7.10	7.10	7.10	7.10	-	7.098	.012				
2.200	2.100	INDUSTRIAL COMMER.	26.9	0.00	2	700	1425	2.10	2.05	2.00	2.00	-	2.036	.014				
7.100	6.850	JOR. WOODSTOCK MILLS	9.0	3.57	22	17526	122589	7.09	7.06	6.95	7.00	-	6.995	.428				
3.720	3.350	ARAB FRANK. MANT.	19.8	5.54	70	18261	66586	3.72	3.70	3.56	3.61	-	3.646	.203				
6.300	5.710	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	7.4	4.22	9	7326	43612	6.10	6.10	5.90	5.92	-	5.953	.293				
1.780	1.750	JOR. PIPES MANUFACT.	9.6	6.90	10	3838	8775	1.77	1.80	1.73	1.74	-	1.765	.138				
2.820	2.800	GENERAL WINDING	7.4	10.54	9	2350	6714	2.83	2.80	2.80	2.80	-	2.857	.235				
4.950	4.480	DAR ALAMAR OF INV.	12.7	4.30	12	1941	8801	4.60	4.60	4.50	4.55	-	4.534	.051				
3.530	3.480	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.5	8.72	17	4278	14491	3.50	3.45	3.35	3.44	-	3.387	.071				
.530	.490	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	-	0.00	120	220000	106989	.51	.50	.47	.49	-	.486	6.667				
2.620	2.620	GENERAL INVESTMENT	6.4	5.45	2	1686	4637	2.62	2.75	2.75	2.75	-	2.750	.050				
1.310	1.220	ARAB PAPER CORP. IND.	8.8	8.03	53	40748	50780	1.28	1.30	1.22	1.29	-	1.246	1.746				
1.350	1.300	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	-	0.00	1	250	318	1.31	1.27	1.27	1.27	-	1.272	.006				
.730	.670	NATIONAL IND.	10.4	8.57	88	95850	69429	.69	.70	.67	.70	-	.683	1.598				
1.290	1.180	THREESIDE PAPER CORP.	-	0.00	37	14500	16809	1.24	1.22	1.15	1.18	-	1.165	.363				
.990	.930	JOR. ROCKWELL IND.	163.2	0.00	4	900	832	.93	.90	.80	.93	-	.920	.020				
2.830	2.650	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	68.7	0.00	7	2718	6070	2.80	2.80	2.60	2.60	-	2.737	.148				
3.050	2.900	WALL-CABLE WIRE. MFG.	18.0	0.00	5	2328	6799	2.86	2.85	2.80	2.85	-	2.821	.047				
.940	.870	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	-	0.00	12	3400	2958	.89	.89	.85	.89	-	.870	.085				
1.620	1.440	ARAB FRANK. CHEM.	28.1	0.00	90	28368	42439	1.58	1.54	1.46	1.50	-	1.496	.567				
1.230	1.060	KWINTON INVEST.	50.0	4.32	28	16000	20801	1.23	1.40	1.23	1.39	-	1.300	.800				
2.020	1.880	UNIV. CHEM. IND.	5.7	10.58	35	10687	19246	1.97	1.96	1.87	1.89	-	1.908	.202				
1.490	1.300	JOR. CHEM. INDUSTRIES	17.5	0.00	85	28850	38913	1.44	1.41	1.34	1.39	-	1.381	.362				
1.070	1.010	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	26.9	0.00	90	41810	41433	1.01	1.00	.98	.99	-	.991	.523				
1.950	1.820	EL-KAY READY WEAR	120.2	0.00	20	3598	6753	1.90	1.90	1.83	1.87	-	1.877	.060				
1.220	1.160	INTEL. TOBACCO	27.3	0.00	63	18171	20958	1.17	1.19	1.14	1.16	-	1.153	.182				
1.260	1.150	UNION CH. & VEG.	29.6	0.00	41	39500	66935	1.21	1.20	1.17	1.20	-	1.188	1.129				
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR														1138	486444	1033388	INDEX NUMBER : 107.20	CHANGE : - 0.75%
GRAND TOTAL														1894	1201394	2205926	INDEX NUMBER : 129.54	CHANGE : - 0.47%

NO. OF DAYS TRADED : 5  
DAILY AVERAGE OF TRADING VOLUME : JD 441,184  
DAILY







## Villeneuve pressures Hill at Belgian GP; Schumacher unhurt after crash

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (AP) — Formula one rookie Jacques Villeneuve upstaged teammate and world championship leader Damon Hill Friday, finishing ahead of the Briton on his maiden run on the Belgian Grand Prix track.

Gerhard Berger and his Benetton-Renault led all drivers during Friday's first official practice ahead of the McLaren-Mercedes of David Coulthard. But all eyes centered on the battle of Williams-Renault teammates Hill and Villeneuve.

With the constructors' title already won by Williams, the two have vowed to fight to the end in the quest by both for their first world title.

Michael Schumacher showed the 9.974-kilometre (4.333-mile) Spa Circuit is not as easy as it is scenic, spinning and slamming hard into the tire safety wall at over 200 kph (125 mph). He walked away from the crash with nothing more than a sore knee but sat out the afternoon practice session.

Canada's Villeneuve had only the third best time in Friday's practice but was more than a tenth of a second ahead of Hill, who was seventh best.

Hill, however, has proved he always peaks during Saturday's qualifying session for the grid, having started ahead of his teammate in 11 of the 12 races this year.

Berger had a time of 1 minute, 53.706, and held a healthy 636 seconds ahead of Coulthard. Villeneuve was .737 behind, with Hill .838 back.

The Briton leads Villeneuve by 17 points in the season standings going into Sunday's race with only four events remaining. Even if Villeneuve won all four, Hill could finish second in all four and still take the title. But Hill has said he wants to finish off any challenge by winning the next two races.

Villeneuve already has caused more than one surprise. During his maiden Formula One season, the Indycar champion has won three races to keep his hopes for successive Indycar-Formula One championships alive. He was 1.588 seconds slower than Hill in the morning practice, but edged ahead in the afternoon, resulting in his "fantastic" evaluation of the Spa track.

Meanwhile, Schumacher, who has had trouble finishing races, continued to struggle with his Ferrari. Moments after setting the second-fastest time during morning practice, his car slid on two successive corners before skidding over the sandpit and slamming backwards into the tire wall.

He blamed "balance problems" of his much-maligned Ferrari for the high-speed crash.

The reigning world champion has suffered from technical problems throughout his sorry season, and failed to finish in seven of the 12 races so far. He had the eighth time overall Friday.

With Schumacher blown out of sight, Hill and Villeneuve only have each other to beat to earn their first Formula One World

Championship title.

And even though the more experienced Hill leads by 17 points with only 40 left at stake, rookie Villeneuve is not about to throw in the towel at the Belgian Grand Prix.

"It's a fight for the championship," said Villeneuve. "It's not as if I will yield the inside track," he said.

And the spectacular Spa-Francorchamps track should be to liking.

The 6.974 kilometres of gray asphalt cut through the pristine wooded Ardennes Hills teeming with daring, fast corners and spectacular descents — picture perfect for an adrenaline driver like Villeneuve.

And he will need to be the daredevil since Hill has a healthy cushion in the standings and can drive much more defensively.

It matters little that Villeneuve hasn't driven the racecourse yet. He also won in Hungary two weeks ago, even though he had never laid eyes on the Hungarian.

And the way drivers all rave about the old racecourse molded by the gentle hills, Friday's first practice session cannot come fast enough.

"From the first pictures I've seen of it and from what everybody's been telling me, I know I'm going to like it a lot," he said.

Hill has already fallen in love with the course winning two of the last three races here. He was second to world champion Michael Schumacher in miserable, wet conditions last year.

This year, Schumacher is no factor in the world standings, as his worst enemy so far turned out to be his recalcitrant Ferrari.

Not that Villeneuve minds. If he wins he can stay on course for the rarest of doubles — win the Formula One title the year after capturing the Indycar Championship. Britain's Nigel Mansell performed that feat in reverse order in 1992-1993.

As a rookie, it has been an unbelievable season for Villeneuve, especially since last month. He has steadily grown in stature during races, winning in Hill's back yard in Silverstone and in Hungary.

The problem is that he has yet to match Hill in qualifying, forcing him to start back on the grid on race day. That should not matter much here, since the track is strewn with passing opportunities.

The Belgian Grand Prix brings back tragic memories for the Villeneuve family. His father Gilles died in an accident during practice in 1982 at the Zolder Circuit.

But Villeneuve cannot dwell on that once he steps into the overpowering Williams-Renault, which has already won the team Constructors Championship.

Hill now has 79 points, compared to 62 for Villeneuve. Jean Alesi, in a Benetton-Renault is a distant third with 35 points.

Schumacher is only fourth with 29. A win counts for 10 points, with subsequent places dwindling down 6-4-3-2-1.

## Bisharat wins another horse show jumping trophy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's Hanj Bisharat won Al Zai Cup in Al Azraq Competition in the Royal International Horse Show Jumping event held at the Arabian Horse Club Thursday.

Bisharat riding Fakher Al Arab in Al Azraq sixth fence jumping competition which started with 15 competitors taking part in the preliminary rounds.

Only four competitors reached the final rounds to be eliminated by Bisharat who won the cup of Al Azraq competition leaving the second place to Yasser Sharief from Syria.

The Dead Sea Competition was monopolised by Qatar's team leaving no chance for any competitors.

Syria won the Rum Competition in which each team consists of two riders if the first rider commits an error the second rider will continue from where his partner made the error. Jordan's Hanj and Ibrahim Bisharat took the third place in this competition.

## Hoddle names Beckham, Le Tissier in England squad

LONDON (R) — Manchester United's David Beckham received his first England call-up and Southampton's wayward maestro Matthew Le Tissier was recalled as new manager Glenn Hoddle named his first squad Thursday.

The two creative midfielders are included in the 22-strong party to face Moldova on Sept. 1 in England's first qualifier for the 1998 World Cup.

With the experienced Arsenal players David Platt and Tony Adams both injured, Hoddle also recalled Newcastle's combative midfielder David Batty and Manchester United defender Gary Pallister.

Blackburn goalkeeper Tim Flowers loses his place to Liverpool's David James, while Manchester United youngster Phil Neville and Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp miss out through injury.

The inclusion of Beckham and Le Tissier provides the clearest signal yet Hoddle wants his England side to play with invention as well as aggression.

Beckham has made an outstanding start to the league season and scored a spectacular goal from inside his own half for United against Wimbledon last Saturday.

He was also at the centre of the United team that demolished Premier League rivals Newcastle in the Charity Shield at Wembley the previous weekend.

Le Tissier, who plays the same creative midfield role at Southampton as Hoddle used to play at Tottenham in the 1980s, returns after only six previous England appearances, four as substitute.

## Rangers crush Alania 7-2, Rapid advances past Dynamo Kiev

LONDON (AP) — Ally McCoist scored three times in the first 18 minutes as Glasgow Rangers scored a spectacular 7-2 victory at Russian Tiflis Alania Wednesday to power into the lucrative last 16 of the European Champions Cup on a 10-3 aggregate.

Rapid Vienna, Cup Winners Cup runner up last season, also made it to the round-robin group stage of Europe's more prestigious soccer competition by gaining an on-the-road 4-2 victory at Dynamo Kiev to win 6-2 overall.

Steaua Bucharest, Champions Cup titlist in 1986, overpowered Belgium's FC Bruges 3-0, to advance 5-2 on aggregate, and Switzerland's Grasshoppers won 1-0 at Slavia Prague to go through 6-0.

Widzew Lodz of Poland went down 3-2 at Denmark's Broendby for a 4-4 aggregate but advanced because it had scored more goals away from home.

Sweden's IFK Goteborg gained a 1-1 tie at Hungary's Ferencvaros to go through 4-1, and Norway's Rosenborg downed last season's semifinalist, Panathinaikos of Greece, 3-0 to advance 3-1.

Turkey's Fenerbahce tied 1-1 with Maccabi Tel Aviv to go through 2-1.

Success in the preliminary round means these winners now go into Friday's draw facing at least six big-money games against teams of the caliber of Italian soccer giants Juventus and AC Milan.

Dutch powerhouse Ajax, England's Manchester United, they were among the

eight teams seeded to automatically reach the last 16. Winner 3-1 at its Ibrox Park Stadium two weeks ago, Rangers needed only 33 seconds to increase its lead through McCoist.

The veteran striker, who scored Scotland's only goal in the European championship in June, made it 2-0 in the 12th minute. And, after Russian international midfielder Igor Yanovski replied for Alania, McCoist made it 3-1 in the 18th.

A penalty by Nazim Suleimanov made it 3-2 before Dutch forward Peter Van Vossen gave the Scots a 4-2 half time lead.

Even without suspended England star Paul Gascoigne, Rangers proved too strong for the Russian champion before some 35,000 fans, and added second half goals with Danish

star Brian Laudrup netting twice and substitute Charlie Miller adding another.

Before 80,000 fans in Kiev, Rapid's Bulgarian international, Trifon Ivanov, netted two first half goals as the Austrians hit back from 1-0 down to triumph.

Adrian Ilie also scored twice in the opening half in Steaua's victory over Bruges in Bucharest.

Pawel Wojtala's goal a minute from the end for Widzew Lodz put the Polish team into the last 16 despite its 3-2 loss at Broendby.

Until that goal, Widzew was 4-3 down on aggregate and his strike made it 4-4 to put his team through because it had scored more away goals.

## Bayern Munich gets tough UEFA Cup draw in Valencia

GENEVA (AP) — Defending champions cup winner Juventus and Paris St. Germain — the Cup Winners Cup champion — seemed to come out unscathed from Friday's draw for the three European cups.

But defending UEFA Cup champion Bayern Munich took a hit in the first round and will have to face Spain's Valencia, serious contenders for this year's Spanish League title.

UEFA Cup play begins on Sept. 10, followed by the Champions League on

Sept. 11 and the Cup Winners Cup on Sept. 12. The next rounds will be Sept. 24-26.

Valencia, second last year to Spanish League champions Atletico De Madrid, has signed Brazilian international Romario in the off-season and is expected to challenge for the league title.

In the Champions League draw, defending champion Juventus landed in a Group C with Manchester United, Rapid Vienna and Fenerbahce of Turkey.

Juventus will begin its

defence against two-time defending English Premier League champion Manchester United Sept. 11. Those two clubs will be favoured to advance from round-robin play to the quarterfinal round.

In Group A, it's Glasgow Rangers, Auxerre, Ajax and Grasshoppers of Zurich with Ajax — last year's Champions Cup runners-up — the clear favourites.

In Group B, it's Widzew Lodz of Poland, Atletico De Madrid, Steaua Bucharest and Borussia Dortmund

with the German side probably favoured to top the tables.

In Group D, it's FC Porto of Portugal, IFK Goteborg, Rosenborg of Norway and AC Milan with the Italians — the '94 Champions Cup winners — favoured to finish on top.

In the Cup Winners Cup, Paris St. Germain drew the Liechtenstein side Vaduz. FC Barcelona — another favourite here — also got an easy first-round draw in Aek Larnaca of Cyprus.

## Shearer's Newcastle face pacesetters Wednesday

LONDON (R) — Newcastle, their early season nerves calmed by a mid-week win and a goal from £15-million man Alan Shearer, host Sheffield Wednesday, the only Premier League side with maximum points, Saturday.

Kevin Keegan's Newcastle were routed 4-0 by Manchester United in the Charity Shield and lost 2-0 to Everton last weekend in their first league outing.

But they spluttered into life Wednesday night, beating Wimbledon 2-0. Shearer, the world's costliest player, netted his debut

league goal for the club and for the first time this season Newcastle looked like the attacking force who so nearly took the title last year.

"I'm reasonably happy," Keegan said. "One or two things could still be better but our commitment and teamwork are getting there. It also looks as though something is starting to really develop between Les Ferdinand and Alan Shearer."

But Wednesday will be a tough test to beat. They escaped relegation on the final day of last season but have kicked off this year with successive victories over League Cup holders Aston Villa and York-

shire rivals Leeds.

Big-thinking manager David Pleat failed in a close-season bid to entice Juventus forward Antonio Lombardo to Hillsborough but so far the Italian has not been missed.

Striker Andy Booth, who signed from first division Huddersfield for a fraction of the price Pleat was prepared to pay for Lombardo, and Sheffield-born trainee Richie Humphries, who scored

against both Villa and Leeds, have transformed Wednesday's forward line since last year.

Pleat also expects to have strikers David Hirst and Mark Bright back in contention after injuries.

Defending champions Manchester United take on bitter rivals Blackburn in

Sunday's match.

Blackburn, struggling to come to terms with life without Shearer, have lost their opening two games and parted company this week with their director of football Kenny Dalglish, the man who, as manager, guided them to the title in 1995.

"It's the first time I have been unemployed since I left school — by someone else's choice," a forlorn Dalglish said.

"We came to the same opinion, albeit the club came to it a little bit earlier than me."

United, chasing their fourth league title in five years, will be looking to improve on their mid-week 2-2 home draw against Everton, for whom striker Duncan Ferguson scored twice.

On Saturday, Ferguson and Everton travel south to Tottenham, who drew with newly-promoted Derby Wednesday after starting the season brightly with an away win at Blackburn.

"Our back four has done quite well in the two games," Spurs manager Gerry Francis said. "But this is a test for them especially after Ferguson's two goals against United. He will be flying."

Tottenham will be without skipper Gary Mabbutt, who broke a shin bone last Saturday and will be out until after Christmas.

Liverpool, who beat Arsenal earlier in the week, entertain newly-promoted Sunderland, who trounced Nottingham Forest 4-1 away in mid-week, while Ruid Gullit's Chelsea host Coventry.

## Atlanta mayor: Flaw in emergency call system did not add to bomb toll

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta's mayor has acknowledged that the city's emergency call system was flawed the night of the Olympic bombing, but he denied that a 10-minute delay in handling the bomb threat contributed to the bomb's toll.

The delay "clearly is a problem," Mayor Bill Campbell told reporters. "That problem, however, did not cause any resulting

damage to persons or property because the bomb had already been discovered."

Officers at Centennial Olympic Park had spotted the knapsack-bomb and were trying to clear people away when it exploded July 27, killing one concert-goer and injuring dozens.

The operator who received the call waited 10 minutes before reporting it to a dispatcher because she could not find the park's

address. The computer system requires an address for each report, although there is a bypass system she could have used.

Because the caller did not specify where within the 22-acre (9 hectares) park the bomb was placed, Mr. Campbell said it is unlikely state police would have done anything differently even if they had known of the call.

## Rebel Australian clubs handed new deadline in ethnic row

SYDNEY (R) — Three of Australia's top soccer clubs escaped expulsion from the National League but the game's ruling body set them a new deadline in a continuing row over the sport's ethnic image.

Champions Melbourne Knights, Marconi and Sydney United are defying Soccer Australia (SA) by refusing to scrap club logos which reflect their mainly European roots.

SA wants them to use new logos as part of a marketing plan aimed at broadening the league's appeal beyond its traditional migrant support base.

Chairman David Hill, who initially ordered the clubs to comply by Thursday, said they now have until Sept. 4.

"There is now the prospect that we can get the logos we want but ones that the clubs can live with to protect their heritage," he told reporters.

The issue has bitterly divided the league, which struggles to compete with rugby league and Australian rules football.

Officials from Marconi, whose logo features the red, green and white of the Italian flag, have described the SA policy as a kind of "ethnic cleansing."

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## PNA cabinet recommends freeing Hamas activists; Arafat seen under pressure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Palestinian cabinet has recommended that President Yasser Arafat release hundreds of Hamas activists held for months without charge, officials said Friday.

Meanwhile Israeli newspapers reported warnings from defence sources that the stagnation of the peace process is putting Mr. Arafat under serious pressure and increasing the probability of extremist attacks against Israel.

The activists were jailed in a roundup of about 900 militants conducted at Israel's urging after four suicide bombings in February and March. About 300 remain in Palestinian prisons, but only about 50 have been charged.

The cabinet approved the recommendations of a ministerial committee that investigated mass protests in Tulkarm and Nablus after a prisoner was beaten to death. The committee urged the government to study the status of the detainees "as soon as possible" and release those detained without justification.

"The release of prisoners has become an urgent need," Hanan Ashrawi, the Palestinian minister of higher education, said Friday. "We have to keep our internal front united."

Attorney General Khaled Al Kidreh confirmed Friday that several hundred Hamas activists were still in prison and said: "We are studying each case." Arafat spokesman Nabil Abu Rdaina said Mr. Arafat would release "anybody who has not committed any crime or any offense," but gave no specifics.

Mr. Arafat released 120 Hamas prisoners last month, but stopped under criticism from Israel. Mr. Abu Rdaina insisted, however, that there was no connection between Mr. Arafat's actions and Israeli politics.

Last week, the Palestinian supreme court ordered the immediate release of 10 university students who are among the detainees, but the students so far remain jailed.

Legislator Aïad Amer, arguing that the prisoners were arrested to appease Israel in the wake of the bombings, said they should be released because "the government of Israel is not respecting its political commitments."

Palestinians are angry that Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, who took office in June, has so far refused to meet with Mr. Arafat, hold substantive talks with the Palestinians or move ahead with Israel's five-month-overdue pullout from Hebron.

At a cabinet meeting Friday, Mr. Netanyahu reiterated that talks with the Palestinians would resume "soon," but gave no specifics.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz quoted a defense source as saying that Mr. Arafat was in "deep internal distress" and that pressure on him was growing because of the absence of meaningful negotiations with the new government.

The source said Mr. Arafat's control over his security forces was weakening and that if the situation continued to deteriorate, "Arafat may allow the security forces to ease up on Hamas and he won't care if there are terror attacks."

The Maariv newspaper also warned of the possibility of an attack if the peace talks remain frozen.

The prime minister's office refused to comment on the reports.

Mr. Kidreh denied that Mr. Arafat's government would allow attacks, but agreed that the situation was growing more dangerous.

Mr. Netanyahu's mistaken policies "are not justification for us to commit another mistake," he said. "Our choice for peace is strategic. But in case of despair you can not predict what will be the reaction."

Stepping in where Mr. Netanyahu has so far refused to go, his rival and predecessor Shimon Peres met Thursday with Mr. Arafat and said Israel must keep its promises to the Palestinians.

Mr. Peres, speaking to reporters after meeting with Mr. Arafat in the Gaza Strip, said: "I feel deeply obliged that every promise we made on behalf of the government, on behalf of the Israeli people, must be respected."

"I shall do whatever I can - as the government, but as the head of the opposition, to support the peace process," he added.

Mr. Peres, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for his peace-making efforts with the Palestinians, said he was convinced that a comprehensive Mideast peace was attainable. "We should not miss this opportunity," he said.

"Peace is not only a Palestinian need," added Mr. Arafat. "It is a Palestinian need, an Israeli need and an international need, and we have to protect it."

Mr. Netanyahu, who earlier accused Mr. Peres of interference for meeting with Arab leaders, said: "It is possible for the leader of the opposition to meet any Arab leader as long as he remembers that we are the government that sets policies."

Mr. Peres had harsher words for Mr. Netanyahu in an interview published Thursday in Israel's Maariv newspaper, accusing him of wrecking the peace process since taking office.

"This is a government of immobilization and paralysis, and lots of talk," he said. "They are destroying everything. The economy, the peace."

Mr. Peres said Mr. Netanyahu's policies could unite the Arab World once again against Israel.

"Arafat is in a difficult situation. This government is giving them an alternative to peace," he said. "That is a dangerous alternative - a unified Arab front erupted us."

In another development, a tumult erupted earlier Thursday when Israel's army blocked Mr. Arafat from flying to the West Bank, where he was originally supposed to meet with Mr. Peres. The decision was quickly reversed, and an official said it had been a bureaucratic mistake.

Angry Palestinian officials charged that the incident was an attempt to obstruct the peace process and undermine Mr. Arafat's authority.

"He is the president and has the right to move freely from the West Bank and Gaza without any restriction," said Ahmad Qouriea, head of the Palestinian legislative council.



REPAIRING DAMAGE: A worker repaints the front of a government office in Karak which was damaged in last week's disturbances after calm returned to the city (see page one) (photo by Yousef Allan)

## Japan to give Jordan \$7 million for bridge, access roads and terminal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan will give Jordan a grant of \$7 million to reconstruct the Sheikh Hussein Bridge and build access roads and terminal facilities, the Japanese embassy said Friday.

An embassy press release said an agreement to this effect is expected to be signed during the 24-hour visit of Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, who arrives here Saturday.

The agreement, the result of several months of discussions between the two sides, will be signed for Jordan by Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and Defence Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti.

"This (bridge) project is a concrete step as well as a symbol of peace in the region and another example of Japanese contribution to the (Middle East) peace process," the embassy said.

The Japanese and Jordanian governments are also discussing Tokyo's assistance to several other projects and are expected to finalise agreements in the next few months.

During his visit here, Mr. Ikeda will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Mr. Kabariti on the "recent developments in the Middle East peace process, the economic reform policy of Jordan and bilateral relations..." said the embassy.

Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Takayuki Kimura said Wednesday Mr. Ikeda's visit to the Middle East was aimed at expressing Japan's concern over the troubled Arab-Israeli peace process and encouraging all parties to exert all efforts to resume peace negotiations.

On the bilateral front, the ambassador said the Japanese government wholly supported Jordan's economic restructuring programme and paid tribute to Amman's strict adherence to the programme.

Without commenting on specifics of the programme, Ambassador Kimura said: "We are totally supportive of Jordan's commendable efforts to restructure its economy and are aware of the difficulties (Jordan) faces. We are very compassionate to the problems of Jordan and are ready to extend whatever help we could in this context."

"We have experienced similar problems several decades ago, and thus it is easy for us to understand and appreciate the difficulties that Jordan is undergoing," he added in a reference to the post-World War II reconstruction of Japan.

Apart from political developments in the region, the agenda for Mr. Ikeda's talks here include Japanese assistance for several projects, including human resources development — mostly building schools — and for water supply and distribution projects.

Jordan has requested \$60 million in assistance from Japan for human resources development. It is not known yet whether Japan will meet the request in full.

Japan's assistance to Jordan — grant aid and loans — in the past 12 months was about \$340 million, including \$215 million to help the Kingdom's balance of payments and \$100 million to finance the expansion of the Aqaba thermal power plant.

"In terms of per capita receipt of Japanese official development assistance loan, Jordan has been number one among all the developing countries..." said the embassy statement, noting that Japan granted \$33 million to Jordan to environment, basic human needs and the agricultural sector during the fiscal year.



### Philippine population to top 70 million in 1996

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippines' population is expected to top the 70 million mark next month unless the government succeeds in curbing the country's high birth rate, official figures show. The National Statistics Office said Friday that a national census counted a total population of 68,614,162 as of 12:01 a.m. on Sept. 1, 1995, indicating a geometric annual growth rate of 2.32 per cent in the first half of the 1990s. If the growth rate were maintained for 1996 the population would be 70,206 million by Sept. 1, 1996. The 1995 growth rate was 0.03 percentage points lower than that recorded in the 1980s, the government agency said. The decline started in the early 1970s, which coincides with the first serious attempt by this largely Roman Catholic nation to curb its birth rate. The church bans artificial contraceptives. The last official census in 1990 counted 60.7 million people. The average household size shrank to 5.07 per cent in 1995 from 5.31 members in 1990. Metro Manila and its surrounding provinces accounted for more than 38 per cent of the population.

### Venezuelan police caught leaving U.S. with cash stash

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Two Venezuelan police officers were arrested at Miami's airport as they were about to leave the United States with \$900,000 stashed in several suitcases, authorities said. U.S. customs spokesman Michael Sheehan said customs officials were suspicious of the two men because they were carrying 28 suitcases between them. They will be charged with money trafficking and rendering false testimony, he said. U.S. law allows no more than \$10,000 to be taken out of the country. The men were arrested and identified as Oscar Rogelio Guzman, 46, former chief of intelligence in Venezuela's police force, and Ramon Antonio Hernandez, an inspector with the same branch. Mr. Sheehan said the cash the suspects were carrying was all in bills of small denomination, suggesting it might have come from illicit activities such as selling drugs on the street.

### Chinese acrobat hopes to surpass Three Gorges skywalk feat

BEIJING (AFP) — A Chinese acrobat hopes to surpass the sky walking feat set by Canadian stuntman Jay Cochrane last year and cross the Yellow River on a 1,000-metre tightrope. The steel wire has already been fixed over the Hukou Waterfall on the Yellow River at a height of 40 metres and both Feng Jiushan and his nephew Feng Xile are training for the Sept. 1 event, Xinhua said Friday. While the younger Feng is more energetic, the older is more experienced and the pair have not yet decided who will take on the challenge set by Cochrane, who crossed the Yangtze River on a 640-metre wire. On July 12 a well-known Chinese acrobat, Zhong Yinguo, fell to his death while attempting a rival skywalk in southwestern Sichuan province. Meanwhile, Cochrane is scheduled to return to China next month and skywalk between two Shanghai skyscrapers on Sept. 25 during the Shanghai Tourism Festival.

## Security Council asks Iraq to stop blocking arms inspections

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The U.N. Security Council on Friday called on Iraq to stop blocking U.N. arms inspectors, warning that only full cooperation could lead to the lifting of a crippling six-year-old embargo.

In a formal statement issued as U.N. Special Commissioner Rolf Ekeus prepared to leave for Iraq later in the day, the Security Council said that Iraq's repeated blockage of U.N. arms inspectors was "a gross violation of its obligations" under U.N. resolutions.

The latest obstruction took place last Friday, when a team of U.N. inspectors searching for banned weaponry was blocked on its way to a site in the Baghdad outskirts.

Earlier last week, Iraqi authorities disrupted interviews that the U.N. team wanted to hold with Iraqi officials in a bid to clear up remaining gaps in Iraq's

accounting for its programme of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Ekeus has said he suspects that Iraq, which under U.N. resolutions must destroy and account for all its weapons of mass destruction, is concealing weaponry on trucks and moving components around the country. The 15-member Security Council reminded Iraq that "only full compliance with its obligations under the relevant resolutions will enable the executive chairman of the Special Commission to present his report."

UNSCOM must certify that Iraq has complied with the U.N. disarmament requirements before the oil embargo, imposed following the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, can be lifted.

Under a temporary humanitarian exemption to the sanctions, Iraq will soon resume exports of limited quantities of oil in return for food and medicine under an

agreement reached with the United Nations in May.

Western diplomats said Friday's statement, which reiterated the council's support for the arms inspectors, planned to "arm Ekeus with a message to Iraq not to mess with UNSCOM."

Mr. Ekeus talks in Baghdad with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz from Sunday are aimed at following up a June 22 agreement in which Iraq pledged to provide immediate, unrestricted and unconditional access to the U.N. inspectors.

The U.S. and British delegations, which take a hard line on Iraq, had been pressing since last month for a tough statement reminding Iraq of its obligations to cooperate with the inspectors who have been blocked since March.

But the text, which had originally condemned Iraq for persistently breaching its commitments, was watered down after an intervention by Egypt.

## KDP claims victory in clashes with PUK

ERBIL (Agencies) — The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) on Friday claimed victory over the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) after six days of heavy fighting in northern Iraq.

Franso Hariri, a member of the KDP leadership based in Erbil, said the PUK launched an offensive on Thursday in the Ashnaya region which was pushed back to the Iranian border by KDP fighters.

He added that a total of 400 PUK fighters had been killed, wounded or taken prisoner.

"PUK forces were defeated and chased all the way to the Iranian border... reports from the area state that the entire PUK force was demobilised and disintegrated," said a KDP spokesman in London.

He said KDP forces now controlled the entire Sedakan region, an area north of Iraqi Kurdistan's main town of Erbil and the focus of the current fighting, and that the KDP had captured senior PUK military commander Said Bekh Baradosti.

A U.N. official in northern Iraq said he was unsure of the total number of casualties, but added that he had "not seen such a complicated situation like this since 1994" when fighting between the groups broke out.

The latest round of clashes started Saturday between the two Kurdish factions which have jointly controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since 1991. The PUK accuses the KDP of collaborating with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, while the KDP says Iran actively supports the PUK.

Each denies the other's claims. U.S., British and French planes based in south Turkey have been shielding Iraq's Kurds from any attack by Iraqi government forces since shortly after the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

But the air force did not stop Iranian troops from entering the enclave last month to chase Iranian Kurdish rebels. The KDP, led by Massoud Barzani, said on Wednesday that Iranian artillery killed or wounded about 100 people in daily bombardments of northern Iraq this week in support of the PUK.

## Opposition to appeal Lebanon poll results

BEIRUT (R) — Christian opposition candidates, citing heavy intimidation and fraud by the pro-Syrian government, have announced they will appeal to the courts against their defeat in Lebanon's parliamentary election.

Albert Moukheiber, an anti-Syrian nationalist defeated in Sunday's first round, said he would appeal to the Constitutional Council, a new 10-member court which can cancel the results and order a new poll if it finds the vote was seriously flawed.

Defeated candidates have 30 days to appeal. The court's creation last year has for the first time given losing candidates the chance to appeal to an independent body. Appeals in the past were made to the incoming parliament which routinely ignored them.

The Constitutional Council showed its independence last month by striking down part of the election law after opposi-

tion deputies appealed against it on grounds of unconstitutionality.

Mr. Moukheiber's aides said two colleagues on his seven-member list would appeal with him against the results in the North Metn district where only one on the list was elected.

Other appeals are expected in two more of the six Mount Lebanon districts — from Ali Ammar, a Shiite Muslim of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in Baabda district, and Joseph Abu Sharaif, a Maronite Christian in Keserwan district.

The government crushed opposition hopes by winning 32 of the 35 seats in Mount Lebanon, the Christian heartland, and the press, an independent monitoring group and the opposition have raised an uproar with charges that it used fraud, threats and vote-rigging.

Newspapers have expressed concern that the government, intent on

allowing only a few opposition deputies in parliament, will intensify alleged abuses in the next four rounds of voting in different regions on the next four Sundays.

The government and its supporters have so far ignored all charges of electoral abuse.

Interior Minister Michel Al Murr, who organised the vote and easily won a North Metn seat, refused to answer questions when announcing the first round results.

Mr. Moukheiber accused the government of failing to guarantee a free and fair vote and of exploiting its authority to the maximum in favour of its supporters. But he said the opposition must fight on and denounced calls by headline Christians for an electoral boycott as cowardice.

He drew cheers from his supporters when he said the government, which is backed by 35,000 Syrian troops, was making Lebanese elections like those in Syria.